

Christingle Service 2020 at Ludlow

Having worked together to prepare our oranges on Tuesday, the Prep and Pre Prep all headed to Ludlow on Wednesday, for our Christingle service; we were delighted to be joined by so many parents this year, and it was another beautiful occasion. Year 5 were especially sensible, demonstrating perfect behaviour to the younger students, and leading the music, reading and prayer confidently. Well done to Rebecca, for conducting the handbell team, which was very well co-ordinated, and to all of you for organising your own rehearsals. Years 3 and 4 also sang very well in the choir, and there was some extremely enthusiastic singing throughout the School, particularly for the chorus of 'Sing Christingle', which has been breaking out all over the place in recent weeks – even in maths lessons! There are definitely some children who could be thinking about our Choral Scholarships, which we run jointly with St Laurence's church; please speak to Mr or Mrs Wall, or Mrs King, for details. In the Chaplain's absence, we were led by Rev. Andrew Body, who gave a lovely talk encouraging us all to shine as lights, showing God's love in our community. The children thoroughly enjoyed the service, and almost everyone managed to wait until it was over before starting to eat their Christingles! Thank you to Mr Wall for playing, to Rev. Price for assisting with the preparations, and to Rev. Body and the team at St Laurence's for their help on the day.



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Prep School News

Year 1's Assembly, last week, was a wonderful telling of Chinese New Year. It might have been a revelation to some that the Jade Emperor decided to create a 12 year cycle and that these would be based on animals. To decide how the cycle should start, he held a race. Year 1 ably told us the story – with some wonderful sound effects – and then told us that each year, and anyone born in that year, would have some of the character traits of that animal. Rats are clever and quick thinkers, successful but content with living quiet and peaceful lives, and so on. So, what animal are you and do you think that it applies to you? Thank you, Year 1.

Friday Assembly was also the moment when we celebrated those who took the LAMDA exams all 42 of them in the Prep School! These are possibly the first public exams that children might take and we were extraordinarily pleased to find that everyone passed with over ½ getting distinction (the top pass) and the rest Merit. Well done all of you and Mrs Rogers and Mrs Sharman and, of course, you parents for ensuring that practice is carried out. No wonder we are quite dramatic in the Prep School.

This week we all went to St Laurence's to celebrate Christingle. As Reverend Body



says, for the Church, Christmas starts on 25th December and continues to 2nd February or Candlemas. Years 3-5 set off first so that they could rehearse their songs and also practise coming on and off the 'stage'. We held the service in the main Chancel of the church with its magnificent East window shining down on us.

Although there were well over 100 of us including parents, friends and grandparents and it did seem cosy, we would have been swallowed up in the main part. With Mrs Wall conducting and Mr Wall playing the splendid organ, the children rose to the occasion. The whole event was lovely and we look forward to returning there next year.

It may be the end of January but there were sounds of different musicals emanating from the Staff Room. Yes, the Summer Production is being chosen. Personally, I am hopeful for the one with





dragons in it rather than mermaids but that is just my choice; but we hope to make the choice soon and then we will cast and by the end of term scripts will be going out! It might seem months until we have the production but, in reality, that is really only measured in days given that we rehearse in drama lessons. Let's hope it's dragons!

Safer Internet Day is on 11th February when we stress the importance of being safe whilst online. As I did last week, I cannot stress the importance not only of ensuring screentime is limited but that there aren't any screens in bedrooms and that you are fully aware of what your son or daughter is looking at. The sooner you start the rules and boundaries, the easier will be in the future

That leaves me space to invite you to our Friday Assemblies regardless of whether it is the turn of your class. We love to

celebrate the children's achievements and you can catch up on school news, have a cup of tea and start the weekend with a smile on your face.

Forest School

What can we make out of mud? Well this week we tried a) to keep some of it off our clothes (rather unsuccessfully) and b) to make some gargoyles. After some rather dire interpretations – using branches and leaves – we finally managed to mould the mud into something. I am not sure that they would classify as traditional gargoyles but they did look fun.

Friends update

We are delighted to announce a Wine Tasting evening on Friday 6th March at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall. For the event itself we have Mark Hughes from The Real Wine Company coming along to guide us through some fine wines. Mark has a long history in the wine industry as the Wine Controller for Safeway and UK Sales and Marketing Director for Hardy's Australian Wines. This should be a lovely evening of wine tasting, cheese nibbles and good company. £10 per person, payable at the door on the day. We look forward to seeing you there.

Special Equestrian Award for Hannah

Hannah attended the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Annual Performance Awards Dinner in Cheltenham last Sunday where she was presented with the 'Kathleen James Memorial Award' for her Equestrian Achievement. It was a wonderful surprise for Hannah made extra special being the very first recipient of the Award presented in memory of a very special lady within the WPCS.



Boarding News

A busy time in the boarding house has made the week go past in the blink of an eye. Our Friday night film club saw a full cinema room settle down to watch *The Others*, and all agreed it was a very enjoyable night.

Saturday was a full day. Our CCF boarders left early in order to do their First Aid training, which left a combined group of Croft House and School Cottage boarders visiting the ever popular Grove centre to do some 10 pin bowling. We had four lanes in operation and some serious competition developed. In the first game the champion bowler for the whole boarding house was Afia, who achieved a fabulous score of 123. Well done Afia!

As it was the start of the Chinese New Year, our Chinese boarders were treated to a Chinese meal at Planet Buffet in Hereford. We were very grateful to Roger for driving us there in the bus and a lovely meal was had by all.

On Sunday we opened the swimming pool for the boarders which they always enjoy.

Again, the wonderful facilities that we offer at Lucton have been used regularly by the boarders. The sports hall remains busy and our talented musicians are regularly found in the music practice rooms.

A further reminder that we do need all boarders to 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.



LAMDA results 2019

Congratulations to the LAMDA contingent once again – the students have surpassed themselves with not only 100 % pass rate throughout the school, but our highest marks to date.

The Prep School gained some superb individual results with all of Years 2, 4 & 5 achieving Distinctions. The Group examinations were particularly noteworthy with an almost unheard of 100/100 for Year 5's Shared Poem and Acting Game, with Year 4 achieving 96 marks, Year 3J achieving 94 and Year 3 P-H achieving 93 – all incredibly high Distinctions.

The success continued into the Middle and Senior Schools, with many students who are new to either the school or to LAMDA, taking exams and achieving highly. Some students in Year 6 even took two exams – Verse and Prose, and Duologue Acting – well done! The students took a range of examinations from Duologue Entry all the way up to Bronze Medal Solo Acting with an age range of Year 6 to

Year 11, and all achieving either Distinctions or very high Merits. The students who took Medal exams, have now earned UCAS points towards their Further Education.

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Sharman thank all the students (and parents!) who worked so hard in preparing for the exams – our focus is now fully turned towards the Hereford Performing Arts Festival.



House Cross Country Relay Competition

The eagerly anticipated house relays took place on Monday with 80 pupils from Year 3-13 taking part in a competition that joins all parts of the school together. After a frantic start and confusions due to some being in house tops and some not, and some junior runners running the wrong course, the later years started to settle and the race gathered order and excitement. Having A and B teams this year was an extension of the competition, but this too, made it a little chaotic; Mr Muckalt and Mr Cowley will need reinforcements next year to sort it out! Nevertheless, all runners took part with great commitment and passion and this was excellent to see!

The competition was close in the end, after the ebb and flow of the earlier runners, and by the time the seniors ran, you could see the race order. Naturally,

with the entire Clarke family in the team, Collingwood dominated and completed the course in record time-31.30 (24 seconds quicker than last year). 2nd place (a whole minute and twenty nine seconds behind were Nelson in 32.48 and Drake just a second behind in 3rd and just 1 second faster than last year! This is incredible given that 10 runners make up the team! Rodney were surprisingly 4th.

The B races saw Nelson 1st in 34.00, Drake 2nd in 34.52, Rodney 3rd and Collingwood 4th in 35.56.

Next year, we will need more marshals to get and keep the runners in order to avoid the chaos of the start and 1st couple of change overs. House T-shirts for all are also clearly needed too!

2019 places were:

1st Place	Collingwood	30.54 secs
2nd Place	Nelson	31.10
3rd Place	Rodney	32.22
4th Place	Drake	32.50



Sports Report

Ist V11 NETBALL v Christ College Brecon

With Elsie away on university interview, the pack had to be reshuffled. After a steady and tentative start, the girls picked up the pace in the second half. Having squandered many attacking moves in the first half, due to lack of drive, against a tall, quick opposition, we trailed 13-3 at half time. A few timely changes altered the mood with Faith moving to GD, Edith to C, Ella to WA and Harriet M (player of the match) into the attacking circle. This added edge to our game with some good circle play and tight defending. Having gained confidence from this, we ended the second half on a high by winning the last quarter 8-7, which meant that we drew the second half of the game, a great turn around against an athletic, assertive team!

U15 & Sixth Form 2nd NETBALL v Christ College Brecon

On Wednesday the U15 and the Sixth Form 2nds netball teams played Christ College Brecon. The U15s faced a strong team but persevered showing good defensive skills and some good accurate passing. Despite the score line the girls did not give up and began to maintain possession more in the last two quarters. A good performance with Georgia B being awarded Player of the Match. The 2nds also faced a particularly strong CCB team and after a slow start began to work well as a team maintaining some possession and working hard defensively. Again, the score line did not go in our favour but the girls did not become disheartened and fought for goals throughout the match. Grace P gained Player of the Match after a strong performance as goal shooter. Well done, girls!

U14 NETBALL v CCB

The U14s have, as individuals, plenty of ability, but often lack the glue needed for a



slick performance. This can be rather irksome, especially given how well some were playing at Tuesday's training session! The CCB match was a scrappy affair, with both sides making plenty of mistakes. There were glimpses of what could be and some assertive defending from Rosie (player of the match). Calmness, cohesion, and improved spatial awareness are the key aspirational goals and in true Lucton spirit, to be worked on in the forthcoming matches

U13 NETBALL v The Elms

The Lucton girls were a little slow to get going and conceded a fair few number of goals in the first and second quarters; however, after some reflection and boosting of team morale, the girls rallied in the third and fourth quarters, managing to drive the ball much more effectively up the court. The Elms fielded a strong team consisting of many girls a lot taller than most of our girls, but after some team strategy talks and a change of line up, the girls managed to employ many of the skills they have learnt in their training sessions allowing them to score two goals. Player of the match was Fremah B. The girls should be proud of the team spirit they showed and the obvious camaraderie and perseverance between them bodes well for future success.

U12 NETBALL v The Elms

An extremely hard fixture this week for the U12s who faced the Elms away. The Elms players were all very tall which meant Lucton had to keep moving to get in front of their defender, especially the GD who

was marking Sophie at GA as her player was twice her size. In the second half of the match Sophie used her fitness and speed to her advantage and was finding space on the court very well. Hannah was player of the match and also captain of the team. The other team were really impressed with her interception and turn over she made in the defending third which stopped The Elms from scoring. Phillipa, Meggie H and Penny were also working hard in defence as a unit by marking their player tightly and putting pressure over the pass. A very tough match for the U12s but they didn't give up and showed great determination throughout the whole match and held their heads high. In order to win more matches everyone on the team needs to keep practising their shooting! Well done girls, a lovely game to watch as you all tried so hard and put up a good battle.



U15 FOOTBALL v Bedstone

Bedstone U15s 1 - 4 Lucton U15s

An eye-catching performance by Lucton Under 15s XI saw them cruise past Bedstone, away from home. With midfield dynamo Malachy C starting brightly, the team hunted down an early lead.

Nevertheless, they were caught napping only a few minutes in as Bedstone's striker ghosted in behind the defence to open the scoring. Undeterred, Lucton came forward again; Ellis captained the team superbly, marshaling it well and ensuring that they kept their shape. Joel B dropped into the hole to connect defence to midfield, and soon encouraging patterns of play began to emerge between Leo, Jack B and Jack F. At half time, and with the slope of the hill on their side, the team launched a brutal display of attacking football at Bedstone's goal, and within eight second-half minutes, it was 3-1 to Lucton. First, Lorcan flashed a fizzing cross through to Jack B who slotted home with striker's instinct. Then, Jack B tapped home after a defender's wayward backpass landed at his feet. To cap it off,

Lorcan then smashed home after more good work from Ellis switching the play quickly. In the end, the final goal was the icing on the cake; quick passing by Lucton released Jack B who rounded the goalkeeper and - despite the angle being against him - curled a low finish into the bottom corner. A fantastic goal, and a great victory against an old sporting rival. A raft of substitutions followed with Ed S and Jack N turning in strong performances as well as Jaime W. Ultimately, Man of the Match could have gone to a number of students - including Fred C, Lorcan and Malachy - but having scooped the match-day ball with his hatrick, Jack B also wins the award, as well as the title of top-scorer for the Under 15s so far this season!

U13 FOOTBALL v Ludlow

U13 Football v Ludlow. A strong team performance saw the U13 boys clinch a 4-3 victory at Ludlow on Wednesday afternoon. The game started brightly with both teams moving the ball well. Some slack defending gave Ludlow the advantage after only 4 minutes with the home side scoring from a well struck shot just inside the area. Lucton were not behind for long and almost 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 and watched it fly into the top right-hand corner. Ludlow came back at Lucton, and it was Charlie R in goal who prevented Ludlow from equalising with a brilliant double save on 11 minutes. Lucton again surged forward and Matthew G sealed his hat-trick with a mazy run round 2 defenders before calmly slotting past the Ludlow keeper.

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 with both teams giving a good account of themselves. 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. Ludlow threatened to half Lucton's lead and a glorious strike from the Ludlow forward was matched by an acrobatic save from Charlie R who managed to get his fingertips to the ball and push it onto the post. 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. Charlie R, Jorge P, Tristan W, Theo B-N, Archie A, Noah L, Zac P (Captain), George J, Josh T, Nathan T-W, Matthew G, Maxx H, Leo R-A and Sam T. Man of the match was Matthew G.

U12 FOOTBALL v Bedstone

The game started off very well with Lucton dominating with some lovely play, and within the first 10 minutes Lucton were 1-0 up with James H putting the ball in the bottom corner. This all stemmed from lovely one-two football with Arthur C and Jonathan D which opened the



chance for James H. Bedstone managed to take the lead as a loss of concentration had the better on Lucton and they scored two goals in quick succession. George L performed fantastically all afternoon with some excellent saves which kept Lucton in it. A save which was noticed was that from a freekick on the edge of the box. The ball was heading into the top right of the goal and out of nowhere George L tipped the ball over the crossbar. A quality save which was celebrated by his own team mates.

Lucton then returned following a number of fine tackles from Hayden M who was a brick wall all afternoon in defence. The ball popped to Jonathan whose effort went out for a corner. James H stepped up for the corner and somehow his effort ended in the goal, 2-2. Time was almost up, Unfortunately Lucton switched off yet again and Bedstone managed to scramble the ball into the goal. Full time Lucton 2-3 Bedstone. Overall it was a close game that could have gone either way.

U10 FOOTBALL v Bowbrook

The first match of the term for the Year 4/5 team against Bowbrook allowed the team to show off the excellent progress they are making in football in terms of technique and team shape. The boys started really well keeping their shape and Charlie and Nathan caused Bowbrook problems from the off. Before long Lucton had 4 goals and Mr Muckalt had to move Nathan and Charlie into defence to give the visitors a break from the relentless pressure and also have a chance to get into the

Lucton half!

Some great defending by Charlie I and Thomas H meant that Joey T in goal had no saves to make! In the second half Thomas H got the opportunity to play in a striker role and he scored two excellent goals, the first ever for the school—well done! Hayden showed some nice touches and passes but the stand out player today was Charlie M for goals, passes, skill and tackling, with Nathan B a close 2nd for Player Of The Match.

Lucton scored 9 goals in total and conceded just 1. This was a great start and confidence is high—Floreat Luctona!

U14 FOOTBALL ISA Tournament

Drawn in a very tough pool, the U14s started against Princethorpe College (the eventual tournament finalists). In a tight game, chances were few and far between in a game with two very even teams battling it out for supremacy. Sadly, an uncharacteristic mistake from Will M in goal gifted Princethorpe a goal. Lucton battled in vain, losing a game that they deserved a draw 1-0.

The games didn't get any easier with Leighton Park next! A foul on our keeper Charlie (not given by the ref) led to a goal and an injury to Charlie, he would go to miss the rest of the tournament! Lady luck was not with Lucton today and a second goal served Lucton their second defeat. In both games, Lucton created more chances than the opposition but could not finish.

An early goal for Ellis in the third game against Huddersfield G. S. settled the team and finally some luck came our way. Lucton peppered the goal with shot after



shot but could not secure a second or third goal which they deserved and in the last minute, sloppy play led to an equaliser for Huddersfield against the run of play. So the pool stages ended with a 4th game against Trinity to salvage some pride! 2 goals were scored but really, the team could have scored 6 or 7 but again squandered many opportunities which proved to be the underlying Achilles heel of the pool stages.

Into the Shield Knockout Competition Lucton went and they dominated these final games which in reality, were way below the team's high standards of ability. Putting Kings and Stafford to the sword, Lucton claimed some silverware for their efforts on the long journey to Nottingham.

Ellis Yates was the player of the tournament scoring 4 goals and being a giant on the field. Jack F played well in the centre of defence and Nathan learned a new position: left wingback. He too scored as did Zac P. For the Year 9s this was their last chance at the tournament. For Matthew and Zac, they will get another go next year!



Eco Club

The salad seeds that we sowed into the trays last week are already shooting up. The cauliflower is also starting to make an appearance as are the Sweet Peas. This week we continued with the seed sowing and have filled up some more trays. In the garden itself, the early spring flowers are already well established and our first daffodil has made an appearance. The tulips are coming on nicely and with all the different varieties we planted it will be lovely to see what flowers. This is a wonderful time of year when we start to see new growth, and life renewing itself. The apple tree that was given a hard prune last November is starting to show new buds already and we are hoping for a successful crop later in the year.



Boarders from the Far East to stay in UK for half term and Easter

Due to the Coronavirus and the strong possibility of the situation not improving significantly in the next six to eight weeks all Lucton's Far Eastern boarders are staying with guardians in the UK at half term and the school is going to keep the boarding house open for them to stay at school over the Easter Holidays.

Those with public exams approaching will have the chance of joining in the regular Easter revision sessions our teachers put on for the UK pupils.

Equestrian News Jake's Blog

It's been a very quiet week this week but mainly dry and sunny which has been nice! There was a Garry Morgan jump session to watch at the weekend which Mrs Lawry kindly organised; all enjoyed it and look forward to the next!

We wish the team luck at the weekend when they go to jump at Kings; all supporters welcome.



Easter Holiday Residential **Lucton School**

Due to the Coronavirus and the strong possibility of the situation not improving significantly in the next six to eight weeks, we will keep the school's boarding facilities open for the whole of the Easter holiday.

It looks like there will be a danger of quarantine on re-entry to the UK and students from Hong Kong and China will be expected to stay in the UK for the Easter break, as they are doing for the February half-term.

We will provide accommodation, food, trips, activities and revision sessions for the students, ensuring that they are able to get out of the school a few times every week with city trips. Those with public exams approaching will have the chance of joining the UK children at revision sessions.

Recognising that this is not a matter of choice, the school will offer accommodation for Lucton pupils at a very subsidised rate.

There will be a charge of £30 a day to cover everything, so the full break will be £720, which we hope will be largely offset by saving the cost of the flights.

Please contact the school with any questions you may have: admissions@luctonschool.org +44 1568 782000



31st January
Spring 2020, week 4

www.luctonschool.org



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