

Lucton News

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PREP SCHOOL
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SIXTH FORM
CCF
SPORT

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From the Heads



We cannot quite believe that we are at the end of the Autumn Term.

It has been a different term to any other we have experienced (to say the least!) but one packed to the brim with activities and, of course, teaching and learning. Getting through the term has really been a team effort and everyone has played their part. We would like to congratulate every single student for

rising to the challenge and for seizing every opportunity. A huge vote of thanks also goes to all the staff, in every part of the school, and the governors for their hard work and commitment. Last, but not at all least, we must of course thank all the parents for their continuous support. While Covid has denied us the chance to meet up at the traditional Boxing Day run, which has been cancelled this year, we look forward to

seeing everyone in January. In the meantime, we wish all our families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021. Enjoy this bumper-edition of the Lucton News!

John Goode & Elmien Niblett



Prep School



Well, we have reached the end of my favourite term, and what a term it has been!

Before I look back, I want to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you and the staff. We have managed to navigate the shifting sands that is Covid-19, and you have stepped up and enabled us to do what we do best: teach and learn.

We have kept the normal (as much as possible) and refused to accept that dreadful term, the 'new normal', and the children have learnt and played, had fun and have been children at school. We've had trips out, we've had Open the Book, we've had Harvest, cake sales, Mufti Day, assemblies. We've had house points, house

cups and sung happy birthday. We've got muddy (sometimes very), we've had LAMDA exams. Year 5 are learning a new instrument, and very well from what I can gather. Yes, we've had a lot more hand-washing and the classrooms feel on the tepid side but that's no bad thing: our hands are REALLY clean! All in all, a great term and more to look forward, next year.

If last week was exciting, then this week was even more so. As we couldn't have the Christmas Party or go to the Pantomime, we thought we'd bring Christmas events to school. These included a fun run, making Christmas robins, Christmas music games, stained glass

stars, gingerbread stars, and Christmas felting. Alongside that, we've all worn Christmas hats. I can honestly say that they have had great fun.

We finished off with a Christmas visit by Open the Book before they took all the goods to Ludlow Food Bank. Another huge thank you.

And with that, I will sign off and wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR, from all of us at the Prep and Nursery.

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep

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Nursery & Pre Prep Nativity

This year, we enjoyed not one, but two trips to Bethlehem!

On Friday morning, the Transition and Bumble Bees classes delighted us with a charming tableau. They included a mixture of new songs and well-known favourites, which everyone joined in with enthusiastically- especially the energetic rendition of 'Celebrate' at the end!

In the afternoon, it was the turn of the Pre-prep children, who performed 'Born in a Barn', which retold the traditional Nativity story from a fresh perspective: the point of view of the animals in the stable. There was some excellent acting, and Year 2 had worked especially hard to learn all their lines. The singing was absolutely fantastic, complete with actions and dancing; it was wonderful to see the whole cast working together, and enjoying themselves so much. We even had a special cameo from three 'wise' men!

Both performances would have been incomplete, were it not for the wonderful costumes and brilliant face-paint; thank you to all the staff for their sterling work, getting everyone ready. After working hard for several weeks, rehearsing on the stage, and fitting singing practice in whenever we had a spare minute, the end results



were practically perfect. A huge well done to everyone involved in both performances, and also to Mr King for filming them, so that parents could watch at home. The circumstances may not have been as usual, but the show must go on!

Congratulations, everyone; I am very proud of you all!

Mrs Wall

A Czech Christmas

On Tuesday, Eliška's mum, Jana Hudcova, visited Reception and shared how Christmas is celebrated in the Czech Republic.

It was amazing to learn about the similarities and differences between a Czech and a Lucton Christmas, and the children particularly enjoyed tasting

vanocka, a very delicious sweet bread that is enjoyed in Czech over the festive period.

Mrs Fower



And finally...

And finally, we all wish Mr and Mrs Wall well on their new adventure. Parenthood, and the joy it brings, in late January 2021. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming Mrs Emily Leonard who will be joining us in Year 5.

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

Middle School

Christmas Talent Show

On Wednesday we held our first Christmas Talent show in the Middle School.

Anticipation has been mounting over the last couple of weeks, with pupils using their breaktimes and lunch breaks to practise their various acts. This was very much a pupil-led event, with each class choosing their own musical pieces, songs and dance numbers. Pupils even devised their own choreography. Year 6 entered a woodwind and string ensemble and also read a poem.

Both Year 7 Forms devised dance routines to "Last Christmas" and "Santa Tell

me". Year 7 also sang a rousing rendition of "Country Road", which we all enjoyed! In Year 8, Hayden performed his entertaining "hand-clapping" party trick and 8B organised a super orchestral ensemble, ably led by Morgan singing "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas". Finally, Maggie amazed us all on the piano with her Einaudi piano piece, "Night Book" which completely held the whole of the Middle School's attention. A wonderful example of true musical talent!

Finally, as a complete surprise, the teachers performed a potted panto "Goldie in Lockdown".

Miss Cockburn played the heroine "The Covid Queen" while Mrs Berry was the "Vile Virus", who was of course, in the end vanquished! Mr Wall stole the show as the pantomime dame and both teachers and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the whole event! Well done to the whole of Middle School for pulling off this fun-filled Christmas event!

Mrs Bassett, Head of Middle School



French

After spending the term learning vocabulary to speak about where they live, pupils in Year 8 started a research project on the hidden gems of France and collated information about various villages, towns and cities.

They then created posters to advertise the place of their choice and presented their work to the rest of their Form - the results of their hard work can be seen in the photo below/above. All thoroughly

enjoyed the project and many notes were taken on various places so, if you are lucky enough to be able to travel this summer, it might be worth

asking Year 8 pupils for their recommendations!

Ms Roussel



Virtual Carol Service

This year, due to the Covid restrictions, our school carol service had to go virtual.

As ever, the service started with Once in Royal David's City, on this occasion beautifully sung by Fremah. The service contained two further congregational carols: Away in a Manger and O Come All Ye Faithful. The Prep School Choir sang Joy to the World, the Middle School Singers sang Mid-winter by Chilcott and the Chamber Choir sang Mr Maxim's Child in a Manger Born. The Rubato band played Hark the Herald Angels Sing and training band played Good King Wenceslas. As well as all the music, we were treated to four readings and a Christmas talk from Rev. Price. To finish the service Mr Maxim played the final voluntary.

Obviously, a huge amount of effort went into editing and filming such an event, and I am incredibly grateful to Mr King, Mr Maxim, and Mr Rogers for all their editing, and to Mrs Wall and Mrs Berry among several others for their musical assistance. If you have not



watched the service, it is now on YouTube and Facebook! Although it was not quite the same as being in Leominster Priory, all the pupils had lots of fun showcasing their talent and creating the videos.

Happy Christmas all!

Mr Wall, Director of Music

Festive Food Bank

A huge thank you to everyone who sent in donations for the food bank.

As you can see we had hundreds of donations, which will make a massive difference to so many local families this Christmas. The donations varied from lobster soup to shower gel and fancy coffee! It was overwhelming to receive so much support for this worthy cause and the staff who run the food bank pass on their thanks to each and every one of you.

A big thank you also goes to Maggie E, Amy-Rose S, Trinia N, Lois W and Evie CW who gave up their activity time to help gather up all of the donations from around the school, sort them out and then bag them up for collection.

It is lovely to see Lucton give so much back to the community, particularly after

we have all had such a difficult year.

Many thanks once again.

Mrs Berry

Grand Raffle Winner 2020

A huge congratulations to the winner of 2020's final Christmas Raffle, Dylan in Year 2!

We would also like to thank everyone that took part in this year's raffles and wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School



Sixth Form



With a full term's worth of work under our belts, it has been a very pleasing term for our Sixth Formers.

They have worked hard academically, participated in various music and sporting events, and made the most of all the opportunities School offers. Now, with our Year 13s minds sharpen, revision plans become sacred and pressure builds. Our Year 12s, too, see interim assessments looming and must prepare accordingly. We impress again on our students the need for good habits, discipline against distraction, and effective learning. Following the Nike mantra of 'Just Do It', we ask the students to set out their aims, complete them early

each day, and then enjoy some holiday. Finding that balance will be a challenge for all students of Sixth Form age, but it is a battle that must be fought in order for the platforms of success to be laid!

In and amongst all the hard work, we have had some fantastic social occasions: our "Google Proofed" End of Year Christmas Quiz was great fun, and we have had the pleasure of being able to participate in the Sixth Form Dinner. Despite it being a more socially-distanced, curtailed event, covid-compliant and without song and dance, we all thoroughly enjoyed the occasion whilst looking very dapper in our finest black-tie

outfits! Huge credit must go to the Senior Prefect Team - especially Forbes, Angus, Emily, Keira, and Carrie for their tireless work in getting the Dining Hall looking like a scene from Harry Potter, at such short notice!

We also have released our very first edition of the Sixth Form Magazine and hopefully parents will get a chance to look over what has been a monumental effort in journalism, editing, art and teamwork; it has been a pleasure to witness the ongoing work that has gone into this over the course of the term, and shows the type of Sixth Former we have, and are so proud of, here at Lucton. Finally, it was good to hear of another achievement, elsewhere, this week - Molly passed her driving test, and no doubt will be providing lifts to her siblings from now on. Excellent news!

Well done to all our Sixth Formers for their tremendous efforts in what has been a very unusual term. We wish them all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form



CCF Leadership Cadre

Over the weekend, Lucton School CCF ran their third annual Leadership Cadre, where 16 cadets were put through their paces, both mentally and physically. Friday started with a few practical lessons on how to use cantilevers and counter balances, to aid their bridge building skills, along with a lesson on how to run correctly with a stretcher so the casualty does not get thrown off at the first obstacle.

Saturday was spent in the classroom dealing with styles of leadership, the general mechanics of how command

tasks should run and the qualities of a leader. The students also had to give a 2-minute brief on themselves and a 3-minute brief on an inspirational person of their choosing. They were then let out to complete the obstacle course that had been set up around the school grounds, and if they thought they were tired after that, little did they know they would be completing it with stretchers and rifles, the next day.

Each cadet took it in turn to command throughout the weekend in a series of tasks, including bridge building,

recovering equipment from an island surrounded by lava, and constructing, then firing, an artillery piece. It culminated in a stretcher race, designed to test their leadership under induced pressure. A special mention will have to be made of Lola M, who, although being one of the smaller in stature on the course, was an absolute machine (to coin a military phrase), showing true grit throughout.

The finale was a quick dip in the pool. This started with confidence building, swimming in clothing, then carrying weapons and finally

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building a raft to collect a cure for COVID-19 from across a crocodile infested river. All cadets performed exceptionally well throughout, and judging by the smiles, thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done to all cadets!

Best Effort went to Lola M, Best Team Player was Nathan T-W with the Top Student being awarded to Catherine C - congratulations! The Contingent Commander and I would also like to thank the other CCF Staff who gave up their time to assist with the cadre.

WO2 Rich Brown, SSI Lucton School CCF Company.

Year 8's Heart start First Aid

In the dim and distant past, pre-pandemic, Lucton School competed in many First Aid competitions, with various teams winning competitions both regionally and nationally.

This is due to CCF introducing First Aid at the start of initial CCF training with the Heartstart course. The initiative was set up by the British Heart Foundation, which is aimed at all ages, not just for children. With the restart of the new school year in September, and a new influx of Year 8 cadets, First Aid could start again in earnest.

As always, the syllabus started with a little bit of drill, basic fieldcraft and the basics of



First Aid, which introduces them to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), Exhaled Air Resuscitation (EAR), use of the AED (Defibrillator), how to deal with minor wounds, and touches on task scene management- calling an ambulance, prioritising casualties, etc.

Over a number of weeks, the Heartstart course was taught and finally tested, which

involved a number of practical tests- EAR, the recovery position, a broken limb and dealing with an open wound. A number of the Year 8 cadets have now chosen First Aid as their activity and will move on to more advanced techniques, and a chance to be in the CCF First Aid Team.

Well done Year 8!

WO2 Rich Brown SSI.



Sport

With a distinctive chill in the air, a flurry of activity took place on all sporting surfaces.

The Senior School boys enjoyed very vocal rugby matches, where their skill and verve were tested to the full. Mr Cowley was mightily impressed with the Year 9 and 10 game, where there were many positive and creative attacking moves!

Meanwhile, the Middle School boys played a great mini football tournament. Two teams won as when they pitted their skills in a quick game against a select team of sixth formers, they managed to grab a victory! The two winning teams were; Will, Raffie, Ted R, James H, Zac, Teddy M, and Samraaj, Morgan, Josh, Kiran, Theo and Hugo, with Henry H, Zac and Hugo top scorers!

On the netball courts, the Senior School girls fielded six teams who played in two triangular tournaments. On Miss Coates' court, the yellow team dominated play with convincing wins over the red (11-2) and green (4-1) teams, with Myra voted as player of the match on both occasions. The green team, showed great progress with a 6-2 win against the reds, with Ashley gaining most player of the match votes. On Mrs Connop's court, the red team (Year 10) rose to the occasion, with slick play, good teamwork, spacing,

and excellent shooting from Yara and Olivia (players of the match) resulting in tightly fought wins (8-6 v yellow and 4-3 v blue). The yellow team (a mix of Year 11 and Sixth Form) had a strong second half with a 6-5 win over the blues, where despite some quick attacking play from Catherine and Trinia (players of the match), victory was always a goal or two away.

On the lacrosse pitch, Santa's reindeer were in full flight with Rudloph displaying good speed and attacking play with wins over Blitzen (2-1), Dasher (2-0), and Dancer (1-0), with Dancer a close second, Dasher third and Blitzen fourth. Having worked hard all term on basic skills, it was good to see the girls playing with confidence.

Later, as the sun started to set, Year 11 and the Sixth



Form dived into the pool for an intense relays session. It was great to see so many willing and able swimmers test their competitive resolve in this tense inter-form competition. 11W nudged into the lead with a slim team victory, 11R were determined to seek revenge. Despite some strong swimming from Harry, Toby P, Morgan, and Malachy in the freestyle relay, it was Jamie's dynamic sprint that secured an early victory. Undaunted, 11R made an impressive come back to win the breaststroke, with strong legs by Malachy and Toby, who then went on to record a fingertip win in the medley relay, despite Georgia's impressive fly leg. Aoibh's strong leg to secure victory in the breaststroke relay was a class act, as was the spirit with which the Sixth Form participated. Aaron certainly did an excellent job at rounding up the troops, who gave the Year 11's a run (or swim) for their money. After, two tense inter-form events, 11R just pipped 11W to the post.

Park Runs!

Last Friday, the Middle School's nerves jangled as they lined up for their assault on the Lucton School Park Run. After many weeks of training, the time of reckoning had arrived and we were not disappointed. The Year 8 ran first, with Hannah, James, and

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Sophie setting off at pace, with the pack in hot pursuit. As the leading trio extended their lead, James stepped up a gear to record an impressive victory in 12 min 17, with Sophie (12min 25), and Hannah (13min 36) close on his heels. Scarlett ran through the pain for third girl, with Rafi (2nd boy) and Kiran (3rd boy) close behind, to help 8B to victory.

Hugo's gun to tape win (12 min 46) led 7W to form victory, with Henry H (13 min 32) and Josh (13min 56) running strongly for second and third. Annabelle floated over the ground for a convincing win in the girls' race (13 min 21) with Chloe B's diminutive figure, running tenaciously to secure second slot (15 min 20), ahead of Amelia J (16min 05).

Will Evans won the Year 6 race in style (14 min 33), as did Solange (15min 53) who just managed to stay ahead of the fast finishing Emily Grace (15 min.53) and Maddison (15 min 57). This was a great team effort, with all pupils trying hard.

On Monday, Years 9 and 10 lined up to see if they could emulate last week's performances and although the ground was significantly tackier and more difficult to plough through, Darcy was outstanding, recording the fastest time of the day (12 min 40) to win the Year 9 race. Fremah and Myra's consistent pacing paid off with second and third, whilst Tristan led the charge of the Year 9 boys

(13 min 21), with George J (13 min 25) and Zac P (13 min 48) in close contention. Nathan (13min 22) and Tiphany (14min 49) set off with purpose as they began their charge for victory in the Year 10 race. Will W and Archie in close contention for the minor places, as were Olivia and Jess. A sterling team effort in the pool and on the run meant that 10Q won the inter-form event, whilst 9D and 9M drew!

In sporting terms, the Covid cloud has been a particularly dark and heavy one, as we have been unable to have inter-school fixtures. Every cloud has a silver lining, however; all pupils at Lucton have experienced individual and inter-form competition in many sports and have definitely grown in confidence and fitness. Well done to all!

Mrs Connop, Head of Sport

