

Lucton News

Sept 4th 2020
Issue 1

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The halls are alive with the sound of students!



It has been an absolute joy to have the corridors, albeit with one-way systems now in place, ringing once more with the voices of our students.

Mr. Goode and Mrs. Niblett have now taken up the position of Joint Heads, and in their capable hands we are looking forward to another fantastic year at Lucton!

The first day back was very much about getting used to our new normal. Face masks at the ready, our students got to grips

with the systems in place, while getting down to the important business of catching up with one another. For some of our students, like our Reception class starting school for the first time, and our Year 6s moving up to Middle School, this was a bigger change. Also, we would like to welcome all our new starters this year, some of whom have joined us from as far away as Russia, Switzerland, and Germany.

The Lucton News is getting a new look this year; primarily

being delivered digitally. We are also aiming to incorporate some new elements we hope you will enjoy. There will be a weekly wellbeing section, in addition to occasional pages devoted to our new journalism club where students can submit their own articles. If your children have been up to anything exciting, we would love to hear about it, and you can email us pictures and details to our new mailbox: LuctonNews@luctonschool.org

Lucton's quarantine bubble finally bursts!

In order to secure the safe arrival of our international students, we took the unprecedented decision to operate a quarantine programme at Lucton, prior to the start of the autumn term.

Initially, the programme intended to welcome just a handful of students from China and Russia; however, as the weeks progressed several more decided to head to Lucton earlier than planned, with numbers swelling to more than a dozen!

In the last few weeks the UK Government closed several travel corridors, including France and Switzerland, the latter resulting

in a frantic last minute dash for one student as he raced to cross the UK boarder before the 4am Saturday deadline!

We still have several students who fell foul of the changes and as a result they will join the school a few days later than planned, having completed a period of quarantine with their guardians. We look forward to welcoming them very soon.

Although we hope not to have to repeat it in the future, the programme has been a real success and has given some of our new students the chance to make friends and become familiar with the school environ-

ment ahead of September. We would like to thank the tireless efforts of our Houseparents, Mrs and Mrs Webb-Rogers, and additional boarding house staff, who have worked so hard to ensure that the boarding house is a happy and healthy place. We would also like to thank Mrs Taxis, Ms Quick, and Mrs Goode for their commitment to teaching the group and delivering such a broad curriculum; from studying English and maths to picking berries and baking cakes! Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank Heidi and the catering team for keeping them well fed! P.S If you were wondering if he made from Switzerland... he did!



Lucton bids farewell to Headmistress Gill Thorne



Lucton School Headmistress Gill Thorne & Bursar, Paul Thorne, retire after 17 years

This summer saw Lucton bid a fond farewell to Headmistress Gill Thorne after 17 years at the helm.

The Thornes contributed notably to Lucton's development, increasing student numbers significantly and raising awareness of the school internationally. Their efforts culminated in the introduction of a sister school, Lucton Shanghai. Closer to home, many of Lucton's outstanding facilities including the

equestrian centre, swimming pool and larger playing fields, were developed by the Thornes, and will no doubt continue to be enjoyed by pupils for many years to come. We wish them all the best in their well-earned retirement.

In the meantime, former Deputy Heads, John Goode, and Head of Middle School Elmien Niblett, will take the school into the next stage of it's development.



Prep School News



It is absolutely fantastic to see everyone back and looking so happy!

Brand new uniforms, shiny new shoes, and beaming smiles. It has, I am pleased to say, been like that this week (although the shoes are definitely no longer shiny). We have explained the new procedures and the children took to them like ducks to water. We got used to new rules in the dining hall but, for the most part, everyone seemed much more concerned with sharing news with friends old and new.

It always amazes us how much

the children grow during the summer holidays; those that were in the Nursery are now in Reception class and the Little Ladybirds are now wearing uniform in Transition! We welcomed over 80 children into the Prep School this week, with a few joining us over the holidays and some more starting after half-term; busy days indeed and a busy term to look forward to.

We are already planning our Harvest Assembly and this year the theme is "Weather". Our chosen charity will be Hereford Mind and we will aim to have what is referred to as a Chinese Auc-

tion. Our aspiration is to have an audience as well; however, in the current climate we will have to wait and see if it will be possible. Whatever does happen, our children will have the chance to perform, which is always important and something that they love. I certainly hope that on 16th October you will join us to raise money for such a worthy cause. Still with fundraising, we are planning to have a cupcake sale for Children in Need on 13th November. There will be more to follow, and yes, we are also planning to have a Nativity performance. We do hope that we will be able to start inviting

(Continued over)

you in as we go along.

Essentially, we are back to normal with a few tweaks. We will still be having our Curriculum Evening next Tuesday 8th September at 6.45pm. Please do come along (1 rep per child, please, who must wear a mask) and we will answer questions about learning, uniform and anything else that springs to mind.

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School



Reception Class 2020

A very big welcome to Lucton's brand new Reception Class!

Ethel, Tommy, Eliska, Arabella, Edward, Annis, Isabelle and George.

On Tuesday, our Reception class finally got to have their much-anticipated Teddy Bears Picnic. Despite some nerves, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely; getting to meet old nursery friends and, in some cases, (meeting their new) classmates.

The picture at the top was taken at nursery this summer. The bottom photo is this from today. What a difference a few weeks makes!



Boarding

I must say how lovely it is to have Croft House and School Cottage busy and full of students again – we have missed you all so much!

The start of term has been unusual in some respects, we have had boarding students arrive from all over the world, some this week and some nearly three weeks ago, to quarantine before term started. Everyone has settled in well and lots of new friends have been made already! We have also welcomed our new graduate residential assistants, Mr Pepper, Miss Holt, and Miss Shaw, based in School Cottage and Croft House, who have proved invaluable already to the running of the houses.

We have put in place many systems to keep our boarders safe, but school and boarding life

remain largely unchanged here at Lucton. We have had campfires, orchard raiding, and a trip to Shrewsbury this week, making the most of the last days of summer and getting to know some of our new students.

Looking forward to the coming term, weekend trips will obviously be more complicated to plan in advance as many of our usual trips are no longer taking large group bookings and local lockdowns will affect plans too; however, we will endeavour to let parents know in advance of plans for the coming weekend in advance wherever possible. For the next three weeks, we have planned Hereford shopping and cinema, ten pin bowling and laser quest. Hopefully they will go ahead as planned but we will let you know of any changes!

Please do remember to let us know if your child is going home or to friends for the weekend, and get in touch by phone or email if you have any concerns (or just want to find out how things are going!) A new way you can keep in touch with what's happening in boarding is by following our new twitter account @Lucton-boarding

Mrs. T Webb Rogers, Head of Boarding



Wellbeing

Sew in labels, or iron in? If only some questions regarding going back to school were as simple this year.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, it's the philosophy of the school room today, that will be the politics of years to come. Certainly, our community of students, parents, and staff at Lucton are proving themselves to be adaptable and resilient. However, it's understandable that students and parents alike might struggle at times with our new 'normal.'

Before Covid, I had spearheaded new initiatives focusing on wellbeing at Lucton; in the current climate I feel this is doubly important, and hope to share some useful resources. At the Positive Parenting Project, they have pulled together some useful materials to help support families in these unsettling times. These include a discussion on what parenting in a time of uncertainty means for working parents, tips for helping children set goals in a resilient and flexible way, and a list of books to help children cope with change.

And for those who are struggling with the teenage years, there's an update on a new community forum for parents of teenagers (and an invitation to join). You'll also find information about upcoming live webinars and video tutorials, plus, all the latest news from the Positive Parenting Project! <https://www.anitacleare.co.uk/positive-parenting-project>

Mrs Goode, Head of Senior School

Thought for the week: "Self-care is not selfish; you cannot pour from an empty cup."

Equestrian



Despite the weather not being quite what we were hoping for, it was still a fantastic few days staying in the lorries and tents, and so many great memories were made! We are now very much looking forward to the NSEA Eventer Challenge Hickstead Qualifier being held at Lucton in October.

A huge thank you must go to Concord Equestrian who very kindly sponsored new saddle cloths, and to HFT Forklift Trucks who kindly sponsored new hat silks for all the Lucton riders at Hickstead.

**Mrs. A. Lowery, Chef d'Equipe,
Lucton Equestrian Team**

We made it to Hickstead 2020! Considering what has happened over the last six months, the last thing any of us anticipated was that we would actually get to Hickstead in 2020! It was originally cancelled in May and for several months it looked as if they were not going to reschedule this year; however, once lockdown began to ease the decision was made to run the event in August with strict Covid-19 guidelines in place.

Once confirmed, it was full steam ahead to get some additional training completed and on Monday 24th August, three lorries, two trailers, 10 ponies, and a total of 21 people set off on the five-hour journey. Unfortunately, it happened to be the two days at the end of August with gale force winds and torrential rain; but despite being completely soaked, the 75cm Eventer Challenge Team had a great start with Freya on

Trooper, Sophie D on Conker, George on Cleo, and Amelia J on Brit coming a very respectable 9th place out of 23 teams!

Later that day we had two teams in the 70cm show-jumping competition with George, Scarlett, and Oliver coming a fantastic team 2nd with Freya, Sophie D, Amelia, and Oliver coming team 4th.

In the 85cm Eventer Challenge, Hannah L on Lucky and Megan on Frank both finished on four faults with just a pole down each, and the second 85cm team finished on a team score of 8 faults with Amelia on Brit, George on Cleo, and Oliver on Buddy.

The next day was, thankfully, warm and sunny and in the 95cm Eventer Challenge Championship class Hannah L on Lucky rode a very determined round and finished on 8 faults.

Jake's Blog

We have had a lovely break with all the hacks and time out in the field! Alfie, Des, Jig, and I came in yesterday after having spent a week in the field behind the Prep School; we've been told we are very fat now but we are happy. We are looking forward to teaching you all to ride again next week! Well done to all of those who went to Hickstead. We passed the riding school licence again during the summer! We have had to say goodbye last week to Ciro which was a great shame but he taught lots of people how to ride and jump over the years and will never be forgotten, especially by Mrs Taxis!

Jake

Summer Exam Success

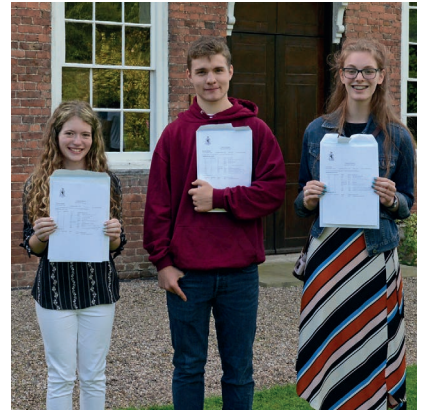
Despite a particularly challenging time for those sitting their GCSE and A Level exams this year, Lucton students once again triumphed with a wealth of excellent results.

Year 11 achieved a superb 97% pass rate with Felicity leading the pack, scoring 10 grade 9s and 1 grade 8.

Lucton has long advocated the benefits of our excellent Sixth Form, Year 13s achieved over 40% A*- A grades, with 80% falling within A*- C.

A significant number of students scored top A* and A grades with Jack achieving A*, A*, A, B plus a distinction in Advanced Extended Maths. The results mean that all

students can continue their chosen fields of study at university. The students pictured below all achieved A*, A, A: Elsie (Medicine at Liverpool), Taylor (gap year followed by veterinary science), Daisy (Psychology at Birmingham), and Oliver (Physics at Birmingham).



Sport

A wet but positive start!!

Despite best laid plans for an afternoon of summer sport, the vagaries of British weather, with the ridge of high pressure being pushed away by a swiftly moving depression, meant that many pupils enjoyed an afternoon of fitness, football, netball, lacrosse and badminton. Although resilience and tenacity were needed to cope with the cold driving rain, the pupils worked hard and with enthusiasm, to improve skills and finished each session with a competitive game!



Mrs. Connop Head of Games