

Lucton News

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Sept 18th 2020
Issue 3



Prep School News



One of the wonderful things about school is that there are mileposts that mark our way through the term and, ultimately, the year. In these times, these mileposts are most welcome as they continue to mark the return to normality.

This week saw the first rehearsals for a class assembly and we also had our first taste of cross-country although, being Lucton, this was for Years 1 and 2! Hearing tests have come and gone and our Harvest Competition has also been announced; not a Bake Off this time, but a photo competition with the theme 'Weather'. It is open to all from Transition to Y6 and there will be a separate one for grown-ups as well so get snapping.

Y5 have started their instrumental programme; violins, cellos,

trumpets, flutes, and clarinets. I'm sure there will be some wonderful sounds at home as the practicing starts.

The Pony Club has restarted. Actually, this would have started sooner except for an inspection by the Pony Club, which Ms Coates and her team successfully passed. And there you have another milestone of normality - inspections. I am a great advocate of inspections. You might think that I say this as an inspector but inspections mean that all is ticking along well and this just goes to show that we are too.

Last week, we voted in our House Captains and announced our Head Boy and Head Girl for the term. These are all responsible positions and something that Y5 take on and look forward to (yes, another

milestone). The Head Boy and Girl will be joined by the Form Captains to make up our School Council.

Head Boy: Thomas
Head Girl: Emilia

Form Captains

Collingwood: Isabel
Rodney: Isaac
Drake: Annamae
Nelson: Joe

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

(Continued over)

HRF

In Wednesday's HRF (health related fitness) lesson we were learning how to improve our cardiovascular fitness by setting ourselves a challenge to overcome. We are focussing on setting and keeping to a pace that we can maintain over a long distance. Lots of pupils enjoyed the views, passing the horses in the adjacent field, and we all made the most of the sunny September weather.



Ms Wilkinson, Prep School

Reception

At Lucton, we are very fortunate to have our own school matron, and so we were delighted to welcome the lovely Lulu to Reception class this week. She got to know all the children and chatted to them about the things they could do to keep themselves fit and healthy - always an important topic, but even more so at this time! Thank you, Lulu!



Mrs Fower, Reception

Macmillan Cancer Support

As many parents will know, we traditionally hold an afternoon tea in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support each year in September, which always raises a very healthy sum for this great cause.

This year, we had scheduled the event to take place in our Queen Anne Dining Room on the afternoon of Friday 25th September. Sadly, however, owing to the restrictions in place with regard to social gatherings,

and the need to maintain Covid security generally, we have no choice but to postpone this event for the foreseeable future. Although we are unable to hold the event at this time, we are sure that Macmillan Cancer Support would welcome a donation directly, should you still wish to support them. In the meantime, we hope that we can invite you all for tea at some point in the near future in order to raise money for this wonderful charity.



Sixth Form



It's been an eventful week here in the Sixth Form. After emerging rather wet from a lake in Oaker Wood last week (see below), the students have dried off, rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into their studies.

While walking the corridors on various errands, I've had the pleasure of picking up snippets of advice as varied as brush strokes from Mrs Painter-Black, tricky maths concepts from Mrs Campbell, and the odd Spanish or French phrase that I think I understand, drifting from classrooms. The learning is very much under way!

It's been refreshing to see just how keen the students are; perhaps the long break has reaffirmed just how important school is. It would seem, therefore, that absence really does make the heart grow fonder!

Our Star of the Week this week was Rebecca Bryant, for her leadership skills at Oaker Wood. We also had the pleasure of promoting those who were Options in Year 11 to the position of Sixth Form Prefect (see picture). I am confident that with the quality of students we have this year the list of Prefects will grow in the near future. During our Wednesday morning

assembly, we enjoyed a talk by Ms Matthie on the importance of curiosity and of learning for the sake of learning, following on from Mr Cowley's talk last week about what it meant to be open-minded. With the weather being so fantastic, the Sixth Formers have also been treated to some rounders in Games, which is always a hit (excuse the pun). We look forward to the week ahead!

**Mr Wolstenholme,
Head of Sixth Form**

“Knot” For the Faint-hearted!

Our intrepid Sixth Form pupils tested both their confidence and their buoyancy on a trip to Oaker Wood on Friday.

Having learnt how to tie a cloverleaf knot (or, as someone remarked, more of a spaghetti leaf knot), the pupils worked in teams to construct rafts which they then mounted and launched into the water. Once safely floating, they had to balance upright on the rafts before attempting to submerge them by bouncing enthusiastically. With more than one raft completely disintegrating, a soggy but elated band of pupils headed back to school. A great day out was had by all!



Ms Matthie, Sixth Form Tutor

Boarding

Yet another week has flown by in the boarding house! Students have been making the most of the glorious late summer weather that we've been enjoying by using our fields and tennis courts in the evenings. Dylan, our boarding house dog, is certainly living his best life at the moment with all the walks he has been getting!

Last weekend, the boarders travelled to Hereford with Mr Pepper and Miss Holt, and had a great time ten-pin bowling in the afternoon. On Sunday we were treated to another wonderful brunch, with many of us spending the afternoon working it off in the swimming pool. We were also sad to say

farewell to Mr Niblett (pictured) last weekend. He has spent the last few weeks helping us out in quarantine before the start of term and with the first few weeks of term itself. We have all enjoyed his energy and humour in the boarding house and we wish him well on his next big adventure, training in the USA to become a qualified pilot! In his place, we welcome another old boy of the school, Mr Goode.

Please may I remind parents and guardians that we would appreciate knowing any travel arrangements for half term as soon as possible, and at the very latest by 9th October, so that we can make the necessary bus transfer arrangements. If your

child is intending to visit friends or go out on weekends during term time, again please do let us know as soon as possible so we can check that permissions are in place.

Mrs T Webb-Rogers, Head of Boarding



Wellbeing

Wellbeing Award

We are now in the final stages of gaining our national award for Wellbeing and we are looking for parents who would like to be on our reference group. Anyone interested please contact Sharron Goode, through the school office.

Parents may receive some surveys (don't worry, they'll be short!) in the next few weeks to help us improve our Wellbeing provision even further.

Remember we are using the Action for Happiness materials to support our work and their website is worth a look: <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

E Safety Reminders

We are finding a number of cases of children and young people posting images of others in the school without their consent, please help us by reinforcing the message that this is unacceptable. It will save a lot of upset all round.

Further places you can go for help and support

For young people - depending on the age of your child there is a range of places that they can go for help, for younger children they can call Childline for help and support, and for

older children The Mix offer free and practical advice.

For parents and carers - The O2 and NSPCC helpline can help with any questions or concerns you may have about keeping your child safe online and can provide you with advice and help to troubleshoot any problems your family may be facing. You can also take a look at our collection of resources you can use from home.

For educators or professionals -The Professionals Online Safety Helpline will continue to operate Monday to Friday 10:00am-4:00pm. This helpline can assist with any online safety issues or concerns that any professional working with children and young people may have. For help and support, please email helpline@saferinternet.org.uk

OPTIONS

We are delighted to welcome our

first group of Options in Year 11. They have successfully applied

for these prestigious and highly valued roles in the school, albeit in a slightly different manner this year due to only being able to work in bubbles! Applications are open for more to be appointed before half term. Well done to those that were chosen!

- G Brown
- F Chilman
- C Clulee
- H Digwood
- K Hassan
- L Horton
- A Marriage
- E Rudnau

Mrs Goode, Head of Senior School



Thought for the week: "Being extremely honest with oneself is good exercise"

Sigmund Freud.

Sport



Once again, we were blessed with glorious sunshine and warm temperatures for an afternoon full of activity, which utilised every conceivable sporting space at the school!

The Sixth Form and Y11 girls enjoyed a session of netball skills, drills, and matches, whilst the boys either honed their rugby skills or headed to the badminton court to take part in a friendly round robin tournament.

Y9 and Y10 girls enjoyed a competitive rounders tournament and it was great to see that most of the pupils scored at least half a rounder. With Ashleigh leading the run rate, it was not surprising that Rosy's team won.

Several of the Y9 and Y10 boys were put through their paces on the athletics track, with Ellis proving to be king of the sprints, whilst Jack N had the most spring in his step, recording the longest jump in the long jump pit.

The Mo Farah challenge was then tackled to see how many teams of four could run one lap in 68 seconds, the average speed per lap he achieved for 52 laps when breaking the one hour track record two weeks ago. It was a feat that two teams managed with relative ease.

Whilst the Middle School girls had a good workout improving their lacrosse cradling and passing skills, the boys enjoyed a pairs cricket match; Kenya v Pakistan, with Pakistan winning by 11 runs as a result of some good batting by the first two pairs.

As the cricket season is being extended into autumn, congratulations should go to our county cricketers, Jack Barratt who has played for Hereford U15s, and James Hellyer, who has been selected for the U13 squad.

Mrs Connop, Head of Sport

Triathlon Success

On Sunday 13th September, Aoibh once again challenged the best in her field at Blenheim Palace; a large and very prestigious event on the UK triathlon circuit.

Aoibh was on fine form and finished 41st out of 2087 competitors as well as being the 4th female to finish and 1st in her age category (17-19)! The event was chip-timed and competitors set off in waves so it has taken a few days for the final positions to be ironed out, during which time she has moved from 4th to 3rd and then back to 4th!

Aoibh has had a short season so far, owing to the current restrictions on events; however, she hopes to be able to compete more frequently throughout the remainder of the season, and has even attracted one private and one commercial sponsor who are both keen to help her achieve her full potential.



Jake's Blog

What a busy week at the stables!

We have had lots of lessons, Pony Club has started up again and, as the weather has been so great, some of us have even been clipped too! We are getting ready to say goodbye to the swallows that have been nesting above Mouse's stable; a sure-fire sign that the seasons are changing, and the cold mornings are a reminder that winter is not far away..



Jake



OPEN DAYS

THURS 24TH SEPT
FRI 25TH SEPT

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

