

Lucton News

FROM THE HEADS
PREP SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM
BOARDING
SPORT

Oct 9th 2020
Issue 6



From the Heads



We are now well into the term and as the Heads of the School, we are delighted with the way the academic year has started.

It is a delight to hear happy voices ringing around the school and the buzz of purposeful activity as life returns fully to Lucton. Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations go out to our students, parents and colleagues for coping so well with the “new normal”.

Early in September, we wrote to parents to ask them to raise with us directly any concerns they had, or simply to inform us of any areas in which they felt we could improve the school. While we have had very few responses to this request, we are immensely grateful to those who have contacted us and given us the chance to

address their concerns and make positive changes. We are also very grateful indeed to the many parents who took the opportunity to wish us and the school well as we entered the next stage in Lucton's history, and to comment on how happy they and their children are. While we are delighted that things appear to be going smoothly, we are not at all complacent.

A school is a learning institution. We cannot expect our students to have minds that are open to learning if we as an institution are not. Please, therefore, do continue to let us know if there are ways in which you feel we can improve. You will no doubt appreciate that we cannot always respond positively and immediately to every suggestion, but we do promise to listen and review our

procedures and policies in the light of the information you provide.

As noted above, the school is embarking on a new phase in its history. It is therefore an ideal opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved of late and in what direction we should now be heading. To that end, the Trustees and the School Management will shortly be carrying out a full review of the school's development plan and reassessing our priorities for the short, medium and long term. We will then implement steps to produce a new plan to take the school forward. It is important that all stakeholders in the school should have a chance to contribute to this process, and we shall soon be publishing a short online survey to ask the whole community about what they feel should be our priorities for development going forward. As this survey will be open to everyone, it will be quite simple; however, there will be the option for a more detailed comment, should anyone wish to make one. Moreover, the standing invitation for students, parents and staff to come and speak with us in person also remains an option.

Best wishes to all and please stay safe.

John Goode & Elmien Niblett

Prep School



Reception Class entertained us in last Friday's assembly on Healthy Eating.

We certainly now know how many vegetables and pieces of fruit we need to eat each day, and that we are only allowed to have cake and biscuits as a treat. They finished off with a rendition of the Kitchen Disco; who knew that vegetables and fruit like to party in the kitchen when we are all asleep! Should you have any bananas, be careful as I hear that they are the resident DJs!

We are now recording the assemblies and putting them up on TEAMS for the class only. Please remember that these performances are only for our community and are not

to be shared on social media. Unfortunately, we only started after Year 5 gave their assembly, so they won't be recorded until next term. Many apologies for this.

On the topic of recording, unfortunately, given the current restrictions, we cannot invite you to our Harvest Festival this year. Instead, this will also be recorded and uploaded to TEAMS. You might not be here in body, but you can be in spirit.

Still on the topic of the Harvest Festival, our charity this year is Herefordshire Mind. We hope that you will all support this splendid organisation by buying the raffle tickets that have been sent home. You are

always really generous to our charities and this is certainly a worthy one. Ensuring that we are all happy and unconcerned is right at the top of our agenda, especially in the current climate; however, this can be difficult for many, so an organisation like Herefordshire Mind needs all the support it can get.

It is incredible to think that we are only two weeks away from half term! Before we hit that milestone though, we still have to squeeze in Harvest and Parents' Evenings. The latter are hugely important as they are a chance for us to share with you your child's progress. By now you should have received an email to book a timeslot; If you haven't,

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please contact the office to make a booking. We are obviously here the rest of the year, so please do make arrangements to come in and see us if necessary at another time. Sadly, though, the days of the casual drop-in are currently in abeyance.

Over 50% of the Prep School take Speech & Drama (LAMDA) with Mrs Rogers. This is incredible, especially if we consider that the first exams are in November! There is an awful lot of practising and I can see (or, rather, hear) all the wonderful poems that they are learning. Mrs Rogers works incredibly hard with the children, but she needs your help to make sure that they are word perfect and is very grateful for your support.

When you listening to you child, though, please do not encourage arm waving or movement! The children need to know how to stand in place with their arms by their sides. I can assure you this doesn't happen for the entire lesson as they are then encouraged to make up plays and act them out. There is many a curdling scream I hear, only to learn that it is play-acting! Great fun!

This just leaves me space to remind you to get TEAMS back up and running so that you will be able to watch the assemblies! Except Year 5... sorry again.

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

Elsewhere in the Prep School, Year 2 have been busy retelling traditional stories using puppets. They did a great job of taking on the role of different characters and they particularly enjoyed chasing the gingerbread man!

They then created their own puppets to create new stories, which they performed to the rest of the class.

Miss Dyer, Year 2 Form Tutor



Sixth Form

This week, we had the pleasure of listening to some of our extremely talented musicians in the Sixth Form Assembly.

It was a genuine delight to be treated to a range of pieces; from Chopin's 'Waltz in A Minor' to 'The Crow Road Croft' by Calum Stewart and Lauren MacColl. Indeed, we were also treated to an array of instruments including the piano, cello, flute, and the little-known cittern.

Amelia-Sky, John, and Johanna all performed on the

piano to a very high standard and with real depth and feeling, whilst Keira admirably brushed off the cello for 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'. Regular performers, Forbes and Angus, played their own composition, "Red Kite", which was hauntingly beautiful, evoking images of the Scottish lochs. I have a feeling we may be hearing more from those two in years to come, if they decide to pursue a musical career.

Finally, Mr Wall gave us a booming call to lessons with a piece from Grieg's "Wedding Day at Troldhaugen", which



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we very much enjoyed. For the Sixth Formers it was certainly more daunting to play in front of their peers than an unknown audience, but we were greatly appreciative that they did, given their abilities. It was a fantastic way to start the day and hopefully reminded us all that it is never too late to start learning an instrument, no matter your age.

In other Sixth Form matters, the pressures of academic studies are now beginning to mount; tests are being set, essays written and prep delivered. For the Year 12s, learning how to organise their time is part of the journey to university, and I have been

pleased to see heads down and hard work during the school day as I walk through the study rooms.

For Year 13s, skills are being sharpened as attention turns to personal statements and decisions on the future. Meanwhile, it has been great to see the Sixth Formers taking full advantage of what Lucton has to offer; whether through CCF, horse riding, swimming, sport or music. They have really shown themselves to be willing to pursue interests both old and new.

Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form



Sixth Form Galacticos

Wednesday afternoon witnessed an exciting game of football between two Sixth Form teams comprising both male and female students.

As the 5-5 score line indicates, it was a tightly contested, competitive match, and one that was played in a great spirit.

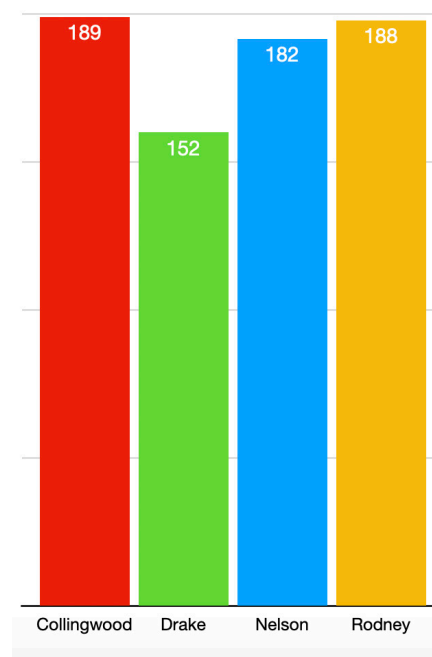
For "Inter Forbes", Valentin created many chances with his speedy footwork and he bagged several goals. Forbes, meanwhile, scored a "worldy" from distance. Female player of the match, Faith, produced some excellent tackles and passes.

"Real Angus" forward line was misfiring for much of the first half, but a swift burst of attacking play either side of half time gave them a healthy lead. Grace was always a threat down the right wing and Hannah put in some solid tackles behind her. Angus W and Daniel provided much of the attacking play but Aaron and Man of the Match Archie provided the defensive solidity that helped the team withstand the opposition's late charge for victory.

Well done to all involved.

Mr Goode, Joint Head

House Merit Totals



Numbers accurate 9th October 2020

Boarding

This week has flown by. Unfortunately, owing to the poor weather last weekend, lots of plans had to be changed at the last minute.

The DoE expedition for Years 9 and 10 was cancelled, and the planned School Cottage trip to Queenswood was also changed to a much drier, warmer and cosier visit to the cinema.

On Saturday, most of the students from Croft House headed to Gloucester Quays for a spot of retail therapy. They were able to browse a wide selection of shops and restaurants at a venue that is ideal in wet weather, as most of it is under cover. Everyone seemed to enjoy being somewhere new and spending

some money. School Cottage, meanwhile, decided to watch the second "Cats and Dogs" movie, which was a lot of fun!

As usual we opened up the pool for a fun swim on Sunday. Now the weather is wetter and it is getting darker earlier in the evenings, the sports hall has also been used much more by the boarders for badminton, basketball and, of course, football. In the house, Mr Rogers and I have been getting busy too; we are taking some language lessons from our overseas boarders! As a result, we have been able to enjoy wishing boarders good morning and good night in German, Russian, Spanish, Dutch and Chinese.

We are looking forward to

going ice skating this weekend, which is always a popular trip. Miss Holt tells me that she is "almost a professional ice skater" so we look forward to some Torvill and Dean level skating! No pressure, Miss Holt!

Finally, just a polite reminder; please can you inform us of all weekend and holiday plans in advance. It really does help us to put our own plans for weekends in place, and to arrange airport/bus transport in good time.

Wishing you all well for the forthcoming week,

Mrs Webb-Rogers, Head of Boarding

Sport

Unlike last Wednesday, this week games afternoon was sunny and warm.

As a result, all pupils, whether playing rugby, football, lacrosse, hockey, netball, or badminton, could take advantage of the balmy weather to hone their skills and match-play strategies.

Next week, Middle School pupils will have an opportunity to develop their competitive skills in the pool as Ben is

organising the first round of a half-termly swimming league. The Seniors will also have this opportunity during the Wednesday swimming session!

Tennis lessons have also started, and several pupils are working on their basic skills under the watchful eye of Harrison Gwilt.

Aoibh continues her run of success (pun intended!) with an excellent win in her age

group, and a very creditable 21st place overall, in the Oulton Duathlon.

Mrs Connop, Head of Sport



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Years 6, 7, and 8 began their netball training with a warm up directed by themselves!

Dynamic movements, jogging, and sprints were the order of the day before Ms Coates led them in team games involving chest and shoulder passes, as well as getting them to work on their abilities to throw over a diagonal distance.

All the girls worked really hard and enjoyed the competitive atmosphere which helped them focus on delivering accurate and strong passes in order to win. After a quick water break they then moved into matches, during which they focused on spacing and strong passes in order to move the ball through the court; a focus which they are continuing to improve on throughout their netball activities.

Penny's shooting was on fire and she rarely missed a goal even though she was playing against strong defenders such as Eno and Solange, who worked really hard to make some brilliant intercepts. Throughout the midcourt there was some cracking play, with Scarlett and Philippa creating some great spaces and providing powerful feeds into the circle. The girls also

showed great sportsmanship by giving three cheers at the end of every game and awarding a player of the match. We are very impressed with the continuous improvements and attitudes of the girls who never fail to work hard and try their best on court.

Miss Shaw, Residential Graduate Teacher



Lucton Friends AGM

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 7.30PM

**All welcome, for more information please
email: luctonfriendschair@gmail.com**

