

Lucton News

FROM THE HEADS
PREP SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM
BOARDING
SPORT
EQUESTRIAN

Oct 16th 2020
Issue 7



From the Heads



Last week, we noted how delightful it was that school life had returned to as normal as it could be under the current circumstances.

While this continues to be the case, we must all be mindful that COVID-19 cases are on the rise, nationally. Just this week, the government has been forced to introduce new regulations, which may yet be tightened further in the future given the imminence both of a second spike in infections and the arrival of seasonal 'flu. Fortunately, Herefordshire is one of the parts of the country that is least affected by COVID-19, or by the more stringent restrictions imposed of late by the government. Added to this, it is a simple fact of the disease that young people and healthy adults up the age of sixty are unlikely to suffer seriously from it. These factors mean that it is easy for many of us to become complacent, and to think that the basic requirements of hands, face and space no longer apply. Please could we urge everyone within, and associated with, our school community not to fall into this

trap? Fighting COVID-19 remains everyone's responsibility and we all need to continue to do our bit to ensure that we, those with whom we come into contact and society in general (including the NHS), are protected, so far as this is possible.

With COVID-19 still, sadly, in mind, we feel obliged to give students in Years 11 and 13 and their parents and guardians some important advanced notice. The government has announced that it intends to run public exams in England as usual, next summer; however, the exam period will be delayed by three weeks to allow extra teaching to take place.

Depending on the revised timetable, which has yet to be published, this might have significant implications for us as a school. Specifically, given that so-called "contingency days" are also routinely added to the end of the examination period in case one or more papers need to be delayed or rescheduled, students may be required to take exams well into what would normally be our summer holiday. It is vital, therefore, that students should be available to sit these exams and that end of year travel and holiday arrangements, take this possibility into account. Please note that these decisions and the events that might require the use of contingency days, are well

beyond our control. We will do what we can to mitigate the effect of circumstances on students and it may be that the revised timetable will have little or no impact, anyway. Nevertheless, we thought it only fair to make those of you who might be affected, aware of the situation.

In addition, the government has recognised that even these plans may need to change. "Plan B" appears to be to rely on teacher assessment, not least in the form of "rigorous" mock examinations. With this in mind, Year 11 and Year 13 students have been advised in the strongest possible terms that they must apply themselves with even greater purpose than usual to their lessons, prep, assignments and revision for internal exams, just in case there are no public exams at the end of the year in which to prove themselves. We are delighted to note that this message appears to have been taken on board!

To finish on a bright note, we were so pleased to be able to attend the Prep School's lovely Harvest Festival, which remains one of the high points of the year. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to enjoy this, remotely.

Mr Goode & Mrs Niblett, Joint Heads

Prep School



Last Friday was John Lennon's birthday. If he had been alive, he would have been 80!

Year 4R took a journey through his life reminding us of the impact he had on music throughout the world, and indeed on music today. Along with glimpses of his life, they also gave us a rendition on what is probably his most famous song, Imagine. The lyrics are certainly as relevant today as they were 49 years ago:

*Imagine all the people
Living life in peace
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you will join us
And the world will be as one*

Autumn is definitely here and with that comes one of the great, autumn traditions - conkers! Year 1 spent time making holes and then threading laces through them before Ms Chapman taught them how to play. Of course, there were "stampers" and "strings" and "oners" and "twoers"; all good fun and they took great pride in demonstrating their new skills to the rest of the school, at break time.

Year 5 also collected thousands of conkers during Forest School before taking them home to lace up. As of today, we haven't had any back; parents, if you'd like to help at home that would be appreciated and we will make

sure play is fair and that there is fair play.

Meanwhile, 'Autumn' has provided a theme throughout the school this week. Poems have been written, Autumn walks have been tramped, and Autumn colours have been mixed for Autumn painting. Somehow the colours that surround Lucton are always brought out in the children's work. Given that some theorists believe that we should teach beauty to children (otherwise how do they measure or decide what is beautiful?) we are certainly managing that.

Harvest Festival today has been a great success and enjoyed by all! There has been

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a lot of practicing and the donations have rolled in. If you are fortunate enough to drop off or pick up, we have some wonderful photos of "weather" that have been entered for the competition. By the time you read this, we will have announced the winners, finished the Harvest Festival and drawn the raffle. If you are lucky, your child will come home with a hamper; if not, you can console yourself with the fact that your money will be going to a very worthy cause.

Next week, we have our Parents' Evenings. Please remember to wear a mask and to arrive no more than 5 minutes before your appointment; however, if you are unable to come, please let the office know. Finally, next week is the last week of this half term and we will aim to empty the changing rooms so that everything can be taken home. Please look at the labels in the uniform as it is entirely probable that some items aren't yours!

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School



Scrumpy Tadhg

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed an apple-packed Monday morning. We began by harvesting the apples from the apple trees in the Prep School playground, even climbing a ladder when needed! The children then went on to juice the apples and make a crumble to take home. To compliment these activities, we made gingerbread men and decorated autumn leaves in preparation for the Harvest Festival.

Mrs Hanly, Prep School Teacher

Healthy Eating Day

Reception's Healthy Eating Day last week was packed with fun and activity. The children harvested lots of fruit and



Tadhg ignores the low-hanging fruit

vegetables in the morning, before returning to school to make vegetable soup and a variety of different fruit smoothies! A very healthy and enjoyable day.

Mrs Fower, Reception Teacher



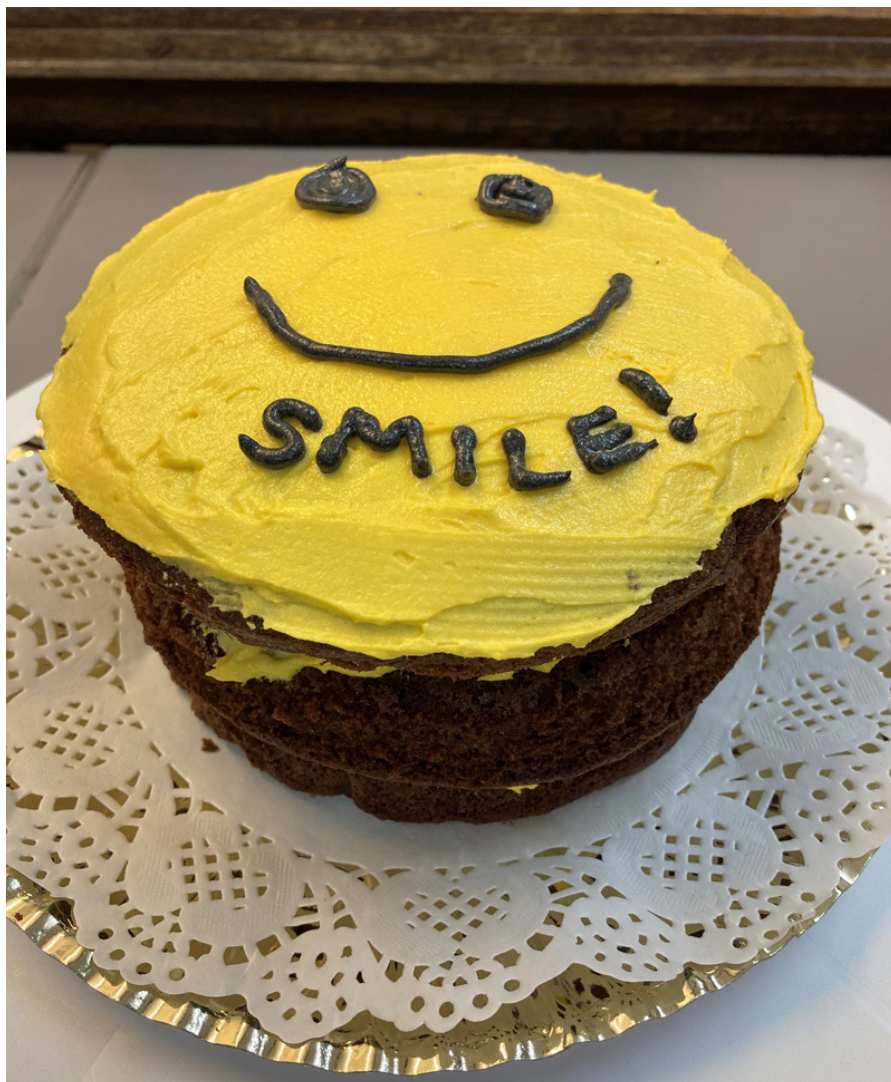
£148 raised!!

Middle School

Inspired by the "Hello Yellow" challenge last Friday to raise awareness and funds for the charity, Youngminds, members of 8P decided to use their youthful imagination to create some wonderful bakes to share.

Penny created the wonderful chocolate, four-tier "Smiley" cake which represented the saying: "Smile, and the whole world smiles with you!" Sophie baked and decorated in lemony icing the enormous "Hello Yellow" sponge cake. Ottie produced a tin full of delicious chocolate chip cookies with centres of apt yellow Smarties and James shared lots and lots of sunset yellow-iced cupcakes amongst Year 8. Their generosity and baking skills were very much appreciated. Watch out "GBBO"!

Mrs Philpotts, Middle School Teacher



Sixth Form

Another busy week has come and gone, with the Sixth Form really taking advantage of what Lucton has to offer.

I had the pleasure of overseeing a very competitive game of boys' football on Wednesday, which ended in a thrilling 6-6 draw and the drama of a golden goal. Students from Year 12 & 13 came together for a wild, end-to-end game which saw Tim score his first ever senior goal and Archie produced a string of wonderful saves.

In the end, Valentin's Blue Knights fell to Aaron's Foxes, after the latter captain himself poked home from close range in extra-time. It could so easily have gone the other way too, with Tim having a shot for golden goal, hitting a post,

roll across the line and come to rest just a centimetre away from glory!

Elsewhere around the Sixth Form, students are continuing to get their heads down to work, despite all the uncertainty that surrounds exams in the wider world. It is to their credit that they have maintained their focus and drive, and we know they will be setting solid foundations for any half term work that is requested.

The Senior Prefects also had the additional responsibility of choosing, writing and leading their Senior Prefect Assembly, which was on the Harvest Festival, dovetailing nicely with what is currently happening in the Prep school.

In addition, some of our art students had the opportunity to video-conference a former student, Ellie Painter-Black, to discuss the merits and benefits of a Foundation Year in art. Ellie is now in her third year in Birmingham and we very much appreciated her practical advice and input!

Outside of the classroom, Angus, Forbes, Emily, Amelia-Sky, Daniel and Rebecca all helped the CCF with the Y9 and Y10 Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They showed real leadership skills as they advised younger students on pacing themselves and mealtimes, before setting up camp under the stars in the evening.

Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form



Boarding

In a flash, the first half of term is almost over!

It's hard to believe that only a few weeks ago we had a house of "nervous newbies", waiting to see what Lucton would offer them. By now, however, our new boarders have all become "old hands", confident in the routines and expectations of school, and totally relaxed with their friends in the evenings and weekends.

I am so proud of all of the boarders, new and old, for their kindness to one another, and their constant good humour in these challenging times. Last weekend, Miss Holt and Mr Pepper took both School Cottage and Croft House ice skating in Malvern.

Everyone had a fantastic time; even Elias, with his penguin friend helping him to stay upright on the ice! We also did the usual supermarket trips and had our regular fun swim on Sunday, as well as opening the sports hall for those that wanted even more exercise. The boarders really do have boundless energy!

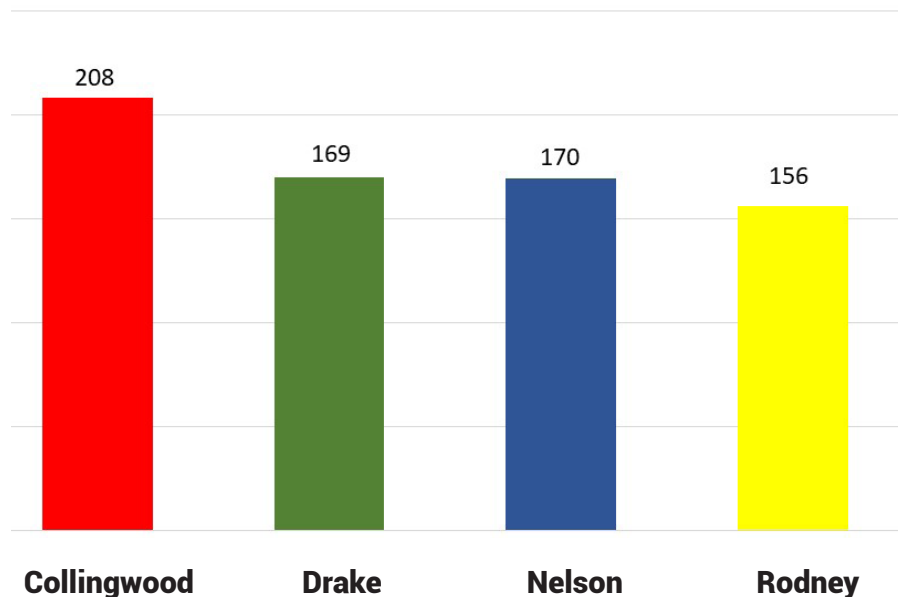
With Covid restrictions constantly evolving, it is becoming increasingly difficult to book trips for larger groups. We are, therefore, very lucky indeed to have so many facilities in school for our boarders to enjoy.

This week has us all looking forward to a well-earned rest over half-term. I hope that you and your families stay safe and well, and do please keep us in the boarding house up to date with details of holiday or weekend plans.

Mrs Webb-Rogers, Head of Boarding



House Point Totals



Accurate 16th October 2020

Sport



A bright and sunny Wednesday afternoon; a little damp underfoot, but a great day for sport!

The senior girls worked hard to improve slick netball moves from the centre pass into the attacking circle, before playing a short, fast-paced triangular tournament.

Annie's team, with their effective attacking line made up of Catherine, Annie and Amber, were the overall winners, although Megan led by example with some excellent shooting for the red team. It was great to see excellent progress from all players, especially from Alex, Lilly and Johanna who have had little netball experience.

Elsewhere, Miss Wilkinson continued to pass on her wealth of lacrosse knowledge

to the Middle School girls, who are becoming more confident with cradling, passing, defending and shooting skills.



While the seniors honed their touch rugby skills for next week's internal tournament, most of the remaining boys focused on football. The Middle School boys made good use of the new balls, slalom poles and spots and were well drilled in attacking moves by Mr Leonard and Mr Pepper. Meanwhile, the Sixth Formers enjoyed another

highly competitive match, with the final score closely mirroring last week's close encounter.

A slightly greasy field did not deter a mixed group of Year 9 and 10 students from improving their hockey skills. With Stach's strong composure on the ball, the girls are coming to terms with the need to use more power and speed when moving the ball around the pitch. In the Sports Hall, Mr Richmond and Mr Goode ensured that all our badminton players were up to speed with some sharp and focused play.



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Swim League Makes A Splash

Round 1 of the Lucton Swim League (LSL) kicked off this week, and it did not fail to excite!

With all external and house galas suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have worked closely with swimming provider, Typhoon Leisure, to continue fostering a fun and competitive environment for our elite swimmers, while also offering less advanced swimmers the opportunity to discover alternative roles within the sport.

The LSL, designed and implemented by Ben Clifford (Typhoon's Swimming Coordinator and Head Coach), gives children in Years 3 to 8

the opportunity to swim four timed events in five rounds of competition held over seven months.

The faster the time, the more points a swimmer will achieve. Children from each year group are placed into their own league table and battle it out for top spot by the end of the 2020/21 school year. It has been a delight to see our swimmers enjoying this new competitive experience.

Students in Years 9 & 10 also have the chance to participate in a similar competition held at the end of the Wednesday games session. With teams of four from each form swimming as individuals in freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, and fly races, competition was intense. Whilst Ellis was a clear winner of the Year 10 boys category, Yara had to work hard to win the Year

10 girls, having to fend off a strong attack from Tiphany in the freestyle, breast stroke, and back stroke races. Tiphany did, however, grab first place in a fast and furious fly race.

The Year 9 races were equally close, with Zac P (winner of backstroke and fly) and Matthew G (winner of freestyle and breast stroke) tying for first place. Darcy (winner of the freestyle and fly) just pipped Hannah L to the post; however, Hannah went on to storm to victory in her favoured backstroke race, achieving the fastest time of the day. 9M and 10Q are the current form leaders although this may all change after the next round; a series of medley relays.

Next up will be Year 11 and the Sixth Form, so watch this space!

Mrs Connop, Head of Sport

Equestrian

Hannah has made a fantastic start in the dressage arena with her two new rides, achieving three Elementary wins with Val and two Elementary second places with Feo.

There are exciting times ahead for Hannah, who is now training hard to compete in high profile FEI Children on Horses competitions with Feo and in FEI Pony tests with Val. Well done Hannah!

Ms Coates, Equestrian Manager



Arena Hire

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
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The best of the rest

