

Lucton News

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Issue 8



From the Heads



As we come to the end of the first half of term - one like no other - we would like to thank the whole Lucton community for complying with our Covid-safe arrangements. These arrangements will all stay in place for the foreseeable future.

We are always amazed at the resilience and adaptability of our students and staff. Very quickly, everyone got used to one-way systems, hand sanitising, staggered lunch times, keeping to their bubbles, wearing masks on buses and in communal areas, and the list goes on!

Of course, we are saddened that so many of our planned activities cannot go ahead this term but, in true Lucton spirit,

we have made the best of the situation that we are in. Sport has continued with the normal timetabled games and PE lessons, internal tournaments instead of fixtures against other schools, and form competitions like the recent, fiercely contested swimming gala and, the choirs and orchestras have filled the halls with music, once again!

We have also hosted two successful and enjoyable charity events in aid of mental health: 'Hello Yellow' in the Middle and Senior School and a most delightful Harvest Festival celebrated by the Prep School, for Herefordshire Mind. A total of just under £1200 was raised for our charities - thank you to everyone who has contributed to these events!

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Friends' AGM on Wednesday, when the committee for this year was selected. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Friends of Lucton for everything you are doing for the school.

After eight weeks of hard work in lessons, everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved rest. We would like to wish all our families a wonderful half-term break with their children. Our special thoughts are with those boarding families who cannot be together because of travel restrictions.

Floreat Luctona!

Elmien Niblett & John Goode

Prep School



I cannot believe that we have been at school for 8 weeks. It seems as if we have just started back, last week. Having said that, there do appear to be some rather tired children who look like they could do with a break.

As you are aware, we did not have our Friday Assembly as it was our annual Harvest Festival. The write-up is elsewhere in this edition of the Lucton News so I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, and a massive thanks to all you parents, who could not join us but were so generous in buying the raffle tickets and donating to the hampers. To raise £1000 at any time is superb, but to raise that when you weren't

even here! Well, that just goes to show what a wonderful community we are.

This half-term, we have managed to (almost) get back to normal with Friday Assemblies (now filmed and on-line), Open the Book, Fish 'n Chips Fridays, instrumental lessons, riding lessons, speech & drama lessons and ballet. We have had swimming and sport. Whilst not managing fixtures, an element of competition is there and Typhoon have introduced a swimming league to add to the fun.

We have been on school trips, had baking, explored our woodland and finished off with face-to-face parents'

evenings. These were a bit different but still very familiar, just no tea, coffee, juice (or wine) and nibbles. But, still the same celebration of the children's effort and work.

And yes, there has been work: addition, subtraction and even division and multiplication. The children have written poems, or written about their weekend and Reception have progressed to sentences. There have been science investigations, some mosaics in art and even the annual Christmas cards have been sent home (I do hope you've bought them). More normality: lost clothes, lost swimming kit, and numerous lost socks!

We are back and it has been a

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wonderful first half of the autumn term. Now for the Book Fair, Children in Need, and more Spartans, Neanderthals and Romans. And...the Nativity! Yes, that will be going ahead and if we can film the Harvest then we can definitely film the Nativity. Have a restful week and see you all on Monday, 2nd November.

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

Harvest Festival

Last Friday, we enjoyed presenting the annual Lucton School Harvest Festival, in the Memorial Hall. It was a little different this year, with pupils spaced out to accommodate their 'bubbles', with no parents in the audience; however, we were delighted that Mr King was able to film the afternoon for us, enabling us to share our celebrations at home. Our theme was 'The Weather', which seemed apt given the challenging conditions the farming community has faced this year: everything from floods to drought! Every class, from Transition through to Year 6, gave an excellent performance, either a poem or



Herefordshire Minds' David Harding receiving our cheque

a song, and the Prep Choir also sang. In addition, Rev. Price gave an engaging and entertaining address, ably supported by all the little Prices in the Prep School! Mr Bicker-Caarten reflected on his message in our prayers; the earth has plenty for our need, but not enough for our greed.

It was wonderful to be able to come together to share some traditional Harvest hymns, as well as to recognise the artistic talents of those who won the photography competition. To conclude, we held an exciting raffle, with some stunning hampers filled and decorated by every class. Thank you to

everyone who contributed by donating produce and buying raffle tickets; we were delighted to be able to present local charity 'Herefordshire Mind' with a cheque for £1000, which was gratefully received by representative David Harding in our assembly on Monday. Well done everyone for all your hard work!

Mrs Wall, Prep School



Middle & Senior

This week students in the Middle and Senior school received a special assembly to explain a new service commissioned by Herefordshire Council for all young people in our county.

The service is called Kooth, supports all aspects of wellbeing and is available free of charge. Students can sign up for an account, monitor their wellbeing, and take part in a number of activities and forums designed to support them. This system

complements our own wellbeing systems of form tutors in addition to our listening service, the chaplaincy, and other national organisations such as Childline and Young Minds. It has been designed very well and is a safe system for discussing and supporting wellbeing.

For more information on Kooth please visit www.kooth.com

Mrs Goode, Head of Senior School



Our Year 11 students are now able to enjoy a warm drink and biscuit every morning, it is lovely to be able to provide them with something so enjoyable, especially as the weather becomes more wintry.

Sixth Form

Eight weeks have sped by this term, and the Sixth Formers now find themselves organising holiday prep and ensuring that revision schedules are in place.

It's been a busy week with a few of the boys having to lick their wounds from a 2-1 drubbing at the hands of the staff in the staff-student football match!

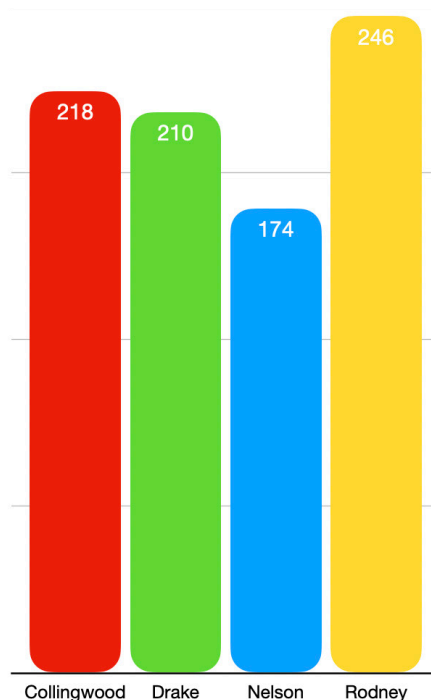
On Wednesday we finished off our series of talks on 'Curiosity' in assembly, and we were also given a snapshot into the dedication and commitment needed to perform at a high level when Aoibh was asked to explain the various impressive medals she has won this term, competing as a triathlete,

outside of school.

Meanwhile, the Sixth Form magazine continues to take shape - articles are being compiled as we speak, as the design team rolls up their sleeves. The Year 13s are getting down to the nitty gritty, Will was off collecting samples from rivers for Geography for example - whilst the Year 12s will have their first grade cards to reflect on. It was also excellent to see the Y12 and Y13s compete against each other in the Form Swimming Competition, with Mr Cowley officiating. All in all, the Sixth Form can reflect on an excellent first half-term. Hopefully they will now be able to rest, recover and reboot, all ready for the run up to Christmas...!

Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form

House Merit Totals



CCF

Our Year 8 CCF group were joined this week by two young soldiers from the Army Engagement Team; amazingly still operating during these difficult times, albeit at a social distance.

Their visit was based around the Army's Values and Standards, some of which mirror Lucton School's Personal and Moral Values. Known more commonly in the Army as CDRILS; Courage, both moral and physical, Discipline, Respect for others, Integrity, Loyalty and Selfless commitment. After a quick brief, the year group was split into two groups and given some simple command tasks to perform.

Firstly, they were tasked with navigating their team through a minefield, blindfolded. Real mines weren't used - something to do with Health and Safety law. The objective of this task was to build trust and integrity, demonstrating clear communications between the those blindfolded and the person directing. This was mostly trouble free, except for those cadets who, as yet, have not got to grips with their 'left and right' and turned in random directions.

Next, the team supplied the cadets with STEM equipment, akin to giant sets of Meccano. Their objective this time was to

build a box which would fit the rest of the unused kit in. The box would then be tested out by running with it ensuring all of the kit did not fall out. This task was meant to build team spirit and cohesion. Some boxes certainly looked better than others, and the creative minds of a 12-year-old should not be underestimated! All boxes worked and no kit spilled out.

The contingent would like to thank the Army Engagement Team from Donnington for delivering this training and we would love to have them back again in the future. A special thanks goes to Jordan and Jimmy who kept the cadets entertained throughout.

WO2 Rich Brown, SSI, Lucton School CCF Contingent.



DofE Bronze Expedition

"The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has helped countless young people on their sometimes difficult path to adulthood." HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh.

For the past seven decades, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has inspired and transformed the lives of millions of young people from all walks of life. From volunteering to physical activities, life skills to expeditions, achieving a DofE Award is a passport to a brighter future, valued by employers and universities. Taken from the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org/>

On the 9th & 10th October, approximately 60 Lucton School students took part in their Bronze expedition. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the expedition, which was planned for the previous

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week, as the weather was horrendous and would not have made for a good introduction to the DofE expedition; I am sure it would have put some of the cadets off forever!

Due to COVID stopping our normal June expeds, our October exped needed to be doubled up. Additionally, due to restrictions, we stayed close to home and used the school grounds as our camp site and the groups were smaller than usual, in order to adhere to the rule of 6.

Friday afternoon saw our intrepid explorers being dropped off near Orelton and

having to make their way over Bircher Common and down through Croft Ambrey, back to school. All made it back safely, some getting a little more lost than others, on route. On my arrival back into school and walking up to the camping area, I was reminded more of a kibbutz, than a DofE campsite, with a plethora of large family tents interspersed with smaller 2-3-man tents, with happy children cooking, chatting and listening to music.

Saturday morning arrived with a slight chill, but dry and calm; perfect for a long autumn walk. After breakfast, the groups set off at intervals for a final day's walking - about 18kms. For

most of the day the sun shone and groups made admirable progress up hill and down dale, by the way of Croft, Sned Wood, Shobdon Hill Woods, through Covenhope, and back to base.

An excellent effort by all involved, and on completion of this weekend we already have one fully completed award sent off for verification - well done, Connie. A few more students are near completion and, when their evidence is uploaded will also be eligible for verification.

WO2 Rich Brown, SSI, Lucton School.

Wellbeing

Hello Yellow

On Friday the 9th October the Middle and Senior school took part in the Hello Yellow day in support of Young Minds Herefordshire.

In response to the school council wanting to deliver more fun days and raise money for charity, we agreed to run the first of many fund raising days. Supporting Mental Health Day, students wore something yellow (a tie, socks or a ribbon). There was also a special assembly to help young people realise that they are not alone with their mental health and allow them to feel more hopeful about the

future. A big thank you to everyone who donated a £1 to this excellent cause organised by Young Minds. We raised £150.

Mrs Goode, Head of Senior School



Sport



Slip Sliding Away

As the edge of a slow, north easterly moving depression clipped the northern reaches of Herefordshire, a damp and drizzly day made for some tricky playing conditions and those much loved mud slides!

Eight weeks into term, we reach the half way mark full of energy and vitality, and definitely fitter than at the beginning!

This week was, for some pupils, tournament week, with the Senior boys playing a feisty touch rugby tournament, whilst the senior school and Year 8 girls played hotly contested inter-form netball tournaments.

Whilst the Middle School boys

diligently honed their football skills before deploying their improved attacking skills in small sided matches, the girls, enjoyed some dance before stepping out onto the netball court for a short sharp session and an eagerly awaited Year 8 inter-form netball tournament; Mrs Philpott's 8P, the Red Roses, versus Mrs Bassett's 8B's Silver Ferns.

Competition was intense and it was encouraging to see that all girls featured positively in the game, with Sophie and Philippa making some excellent passes to Hazel, who, having scored two excellent goals, was named the Red Roses Player of the Match. Silver Ferns Player of the Match, Amy Rose, was quick and accurate, making many

good interceptions as she denied space and put pressure on attacking play. The Red Roses took an early lead, with some excellent attacking play and solid defending by Penny and Ava. A quick change at half time, some solid centre court play by Scarlett and improved movement in the Silver Fern's attacking circle by Isla and Hannah, helped reduce the deficit, until the Red Roses had a run of play to win 6-4.

A focus on sprinting and improved attacking netball play was the name of the game for the Year 9 and 10 girls, who had to work hard in the warm up drills before playing their inter-form tournaments. 9D's Red Lionesses stormed into an early lead over 9M's Black Panthers, with some excellent play by Scarlett (Player of the Match) and consistent shooting by Myra.

Although the Black Panthers staged a comeback, they couldn't quite match the Lionesses pace, who won 5-3. Great progress by Evie was noticed by the opposition who voted her Black Panthers Player of the Match.

On the opposite court, 10T's Australian Diamonds faced the 10Q's Irish Shamrocks, who had a storming match with some excellent attacking moves that utilised all

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players in the team. This fast and furious match brought out the competitive spirit of all players (including Mrs C) with 10Q holding onto an early lead to win 6-5. Jess C was a deserving Player of the Match for the Aussie Diamonds with her fast drives into and around the attacking circle, as was Georgie for the Irish Shamrocks who as their Player of the Match really grew in confidence as the game progressed.

The Year 11 girls worked on their hockey skills, with

Rugby

After a few weeks practicing with no fixtures we decided to finish the half-term with a mini-tournament for the under 14/15 squad.

Ellis has departed to train with the senior team, but even without him the squad have made steady progress this term. We split into 3 teams: Saracens, Exeter Chiefs, and Worcester Warriors and played full contact, with no kicking and a tap re-start. Matches were limited to 5 mins each way on half a pitch, 7-a-side. This proved very hard work for all the boys.

There was no quarter given and it was clear from the outset that the return to physicality was most welcome. Some of the running and footwork was excellent; king of this was Matt who scored 4 tries in the opening

Georgia and Libby showing good leadership skills in the warm up drills. It was; however, a little challenging to implement these skills within the game as the geography of the pitch, a slight slope and slick grass, challenged possession and passing skills!

The Sixth Form enjoyed a badminton session and some cross country running before dipping into the pool for the much anticipated swim league competition. Here they were challenged by the Year 11s with some fine swimming, with

fixture, but this did not prevent his team from drawing the first match 6 tries each. It was a cracking game. Sam was excellent all over the pitch for Saracens as was Jack and Joel for Exeter Chiefs. Neither side gave up and battled to the last second. The subsequent tie was a fair result.

Saracens stayed on the field and played Worcester Warriors. WW last line of defense was Jack, whose tackling was outstanding and it was only this that kept WW in the game in the first half. Again, no quarter given in the contact area, with Sam prominent. Saracens tried to allow all of their team a chance to have a go and perhaps had they got the ball to Matt earlier then the score line may have been different, but all credit to WW.

In addition to Jack, Leo,

Year 11 dominating the individual races. Morgan won the freestyle, Libby the backstroke, and George the breaststroke, whilst Angus (Year 13) dominated the fly.

The relays were intense with Year 13 proving to be the team to beat. Overall, Year 11 won the team competition with 7 points, Year 13 a close second 2nd with 8 points and Year 12 a valiant third.

A great end to a busy half term!

Mrs Connop, Head of Sport

Sameer and George all played very well and a 5-3 try count in their favour was well deserved.

The final match saw WW v Exeter Chiefs. At this point WW were battle weary and ran out of steam, turning it into a one-sided affair with EC running away 9 tries to 1.

Overall an excellent finish to the term. The boys clearly enjoyed the contest. We all agreed that the standard of play, particularly tackling, had improved tremendously, as has our running and support skills, but that passing needs a lot of work! Well done to all.

Mr Cowley

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Reporter Fred C writes match report from the touch line of the Lucton School rugby pitch.

"Today, we participated in the first inter-school rugby tournament of the year. The boys split into 3 teams of 7, which would see each team play each other twice. Captains were Reubens, Alex, and Matt. Following a short warm up, the matches began. The first match saw Matt's team vs Alex's team.

After a rather sloppy first few minutes they then adapted well to the tough, wet conditions, and slippery ball. Once, going through the phases in a patient well-constructed attack, Jack threw an exquisite long pass which allowed Kian to score in the corner and for Matt's team to take the lead and ultimately win.

The following matches resulted in draws with Alex and Kennedy receiving Man of

the Match in their respective games, for strong individual performances. Every match was very competitive and close but it all came down to the last one between Matt and Reuben's teams to decide a winner of the tournament.

After 5 highly intense minutes, neither team was giving an inch. It took a magnificent Fijian style offload from Finn to allow Jack to break through, draw the last man, and play Kian in for a last minute winner under the posts, to clinch glory.

The final results were Alex's team 3rd (on 1 point), Reuben's team 2nd (on 8 points), and Matt's team 1st (with 9 points).

Well done to the lads for showing great enthusiasm and positive attitude this first half of the term through these challenging times. We will look to keep improving and becoming stronger as a team

after half term."

Fred C, Year 11



Badminton

Due to the continued popularity of this sport, we now offer two sessions on a Wednesday afternoon with separate Senior School and Sixth Form provision.

As with all other sports, we are currently unable to hold interschool matches. This week we held a minor tournament of an all-play-all format exclusively for the lesser experienced pupils who have not yet played for the school team.

With eleven players, this provided lots of variety and interest. The highlight was in the final round where the two highest scoring players met head to head to decide the winner. After going point for point in the early rallies Charlie Rayson, by virtue of his greater consistency, pulled ahead and scored a well-deserved victory over Jorge.

Mr Richmond

A Fond Farewell To Megan

We bid farewell to Megan, our Administration Coordinator, who leaves us to begin a career in accountancy.

Over the last few years Megan has organised countless triathlons, aquathlons, equestrian events, bus trips, reports, and grade cards for everyone, along with many other countless tasks within the Admin Team!

We wish her every success and will miss her greatly!

Mrs Hall



A Special Thank You To Mrs Hern

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Hern for her wonderful photographs of this year's Harvest Festival.

We have some exceptionally talented parents in the Lucton School community and we are delighted to see the festival captured with such charm!

It is, therefore, only right that we share a couple more photographs.

