

Lucton News

FROM THE HEADS
PREP SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM
LAMDA
LIBRARY NEWS
WELLBEING
EQUESTRIAN

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Issue 16



From the Heads



Like many of you, we suspect, we have felt a bit like swans this week.

We like to think we have appeared serene and unruffled as we have glided through the week, but we are definitely paddling like fury out of sight; dealing with usual round of briefings, meetings, teaching, COVID testing, checking for updates on the current situation, as well as coping with those issues that

inevitably crop up, usually unexpectedly, from day-to-day!

Among it all, however, we have had the chance catch up with lots of parents, either virtually during the day or in person at 5pm. We have had many supportive comments about how well things are going, for which we are most grateful.

Having said this, the real credit goes to the staff, the

students (both in school and at home) and the parents who are all supporting the teaching and learning so effectively. As always at Lucton, it's a real team effort and our sincere thanks go to all involved.

John Goode & Elmien Niblett

Prep School



I overheard a LAMDA lesson where it was pointed out that Christmas was only 3 weeks ago, to which there were the shocked responses: "I thought it was 20 weeks ago!" and "I thought it was forever ago!". Aside from the interesting take on time, it does feel a long time ago - even last week feels like an eon!

We are settling into our stride here in the Prep School. The teachers are really getting to grips with simultaneous broadcasting (teaching, I mean) and it is great to see those at home engaging with the lessons.

So, what has been happening? Well, Reception have been delving into the Jurassic

age. They have been making dinosaur nests and eggs to go in them. Some real dinosaur fossils have even been lent to them by the Senior School.

Year 1 are engaging with the mighty Victorians; they are beginning to explore the Victorian Pointillist artists such as Georges Seurat, Camille Pissarro. Even Vincent van Gogh used the technique.

Year 2 are starting to design their own sandwiches in DT. Given the success of Pret a Manger, that is no bad thing. It will be fun to see the ingredients and then the packaging.

A favourite topic of Year 3 starts this term; the rainforest.

In the past, Miss Jay as transformed her classroom into a jungle and the children have brought in various tropical toys. What will happen this term?

Year 4 are quite volcanic. In fact they are tectonic as well! Volcanoes are always fascinating and Year 4 always look forward to the topic.

Year 5 are embarking on a massive quest to learn about weather and climate. Given that Britain is the only country in the world to have 4 weather fronts, there is no wonder that we always talk about it!

There is much more going on, of course. This is merely a snapshot into our days, not

(Continued over)

to mention music, swimming, sport, maths etc.

So, we are really settling into the term. It is amazing how adaptable humans are and we are really proving that now. Please help us to keep going by maintaining "Hands, Face and Space" yourselves. Keep healthy everyone!

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

Prep School Sport

Years 3-5 in Prep School have completed the Cooper Run test to kick off their cross-country work this term.

What was particularly impressive to all staff was the sheer determination to overcome the mental and physical challenge set by each year group.

Year 4 were highly noteworthy, with everyone running over a mile in their assessment.

Special congratulations are also in order for;

Clay, Tom, Annamae, and Afia in Year 5.

Charlie, Scarlett, Miles, Isobel, and Jake in Year 4.

Jasmine and Santi in Year 3.

All showed unwavering perseverance and effort! Both Miss Shaw and I are excited to see their progress in cross country as the term continues. Well done all!

Ms Wilkinson



Sixth Form



Another week of Teams, muted microphones, and rushing off whilst staying in the same place has come and gone and, once again, I can only commend the attitude and can-do spirit that our Sixth Formers exhibit.

There are many hurdles to online learning, including trying to draw diagrams on the Teams whiteboard, as I have found out; however, where there's a will there's a way, and our students have shown that their willingness to work remains undiminished.

Life in Sixth Form is very different at the moment. We

have students in various parts of the globe, in the boarding house, and in our local area all working from home. Despite the vast distances between them, it has been good to see their sense of humour remains strong. I have seen all manner of virtual backgrounds, from outer-space to 19th century Germany, and a synthesized microphone add-on was even used during one registration!

A lot of work is also being completed behind the scenes too. EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) questions are being formulated by some of our Year 12s, Year 13 UCAS applications have been coming

in ahead of the extended deadline and ideas for articles for the Sixth Form magazine are being chewed over. Plus, in the coming weeks, we will be holding informal interviews with our Year 11s, to help answer any questions they may have about A level learning in general, and the direction they plan on taking.

Being busy in these times is a good thing and I am sure that the hard work being put in now will pay dividends as we move forwards.

Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form

LAMDA

Success

Another wonderful set of results, and we are delighted the exams were able to be delivered safely.

Particular congratulations to Felicity Aston and Molly Harris, who both took their Silver Medal acting exam, gaining Distinctions, which means additional UCAS points for their university applications.

All in all, every student passed with the majority gaining Distinctions- well done, we are very proud of your achievements!



Mrs Sharman



Well done! Your booktastic prize will be waiting for you, when things are back to normal.

A new year and a new reading challenge is about to start for 2021! I will shortly be sending out the challenge, which will have students hunting down different genres of books and specific words in titles.

Library News

We had an impressive 15 entries for the "20 books for 2020" challenge from across the school.

I am delighted to announce that the winner of the challenge is Noah in Year 9!

Remember, students; reading is a great opportunity for you to break away from your computer screens after a busy day at school. Keep logging each book and let me know how you are getting on.

Miss Quick

Wellbeing

A new website has been launched, providing interactive activities to help primary and secondary age children better understand coronavirus testing, how to stay safe, and how to support them through the impact of COVID-19.

For more information visit:

www.storicise.com

Mrs Goode



Boarding News

Well, what a strange and quiet start to the term we have had!

We still have a number of boarders in the houses though, and over the past week our students have really got to grips with online learning in school. Luckily, they have been able to still get out of the boarding house to run off some energy in sports lessons, in the gym, and in the pool.

Last weekend School Cottage made the most of the frosty weather with a really long dog walk on Saturday. Dylan, our family dog, just loves lockdown and all the extra attention he's getting! This was followed by a fun swim in the afternoon. The weekend was finished

off in style, watching the new Pixar film Soul in the cinema room, with plenty of popcorn, obviously!

With Covid restrictions still very much in place, we have decided to keep the boarding house facility open over the half term break, as we did over Christmas, for boarders unable to travel home. If this is an option that you might find useful for your son or daughter please do contact the school office, or email the boarding office to discuss the matter further (boardinghouse@luctonschool.org). This will allow us to put final plans together in good time.

Mrs Webb-Rogers, Head of Boarding

Equestrian

With lockdown firmly in place, there may be a few less students at the school; however, life goes on for those at the yard!

In the coming weeks, Miss Annett and I will be producing a series of short videos demonstrating a few crucial skills that you might like to practice at home, if you have access to a horse or pony:

1. Bandaging. This is the ideal time to get your pony wrapped up.

2. Plaiting. We might not be going anywhere, but we can still be the best turned out.

3. Mucking out. Miss Annett will be demonstrating how to make the perfect bed. It's also great exercise!

4. Assess your pony's conformation. Pull out the Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship and take a look at your own pony. You can consider how it impacts on their work and the way that you ride them. You can

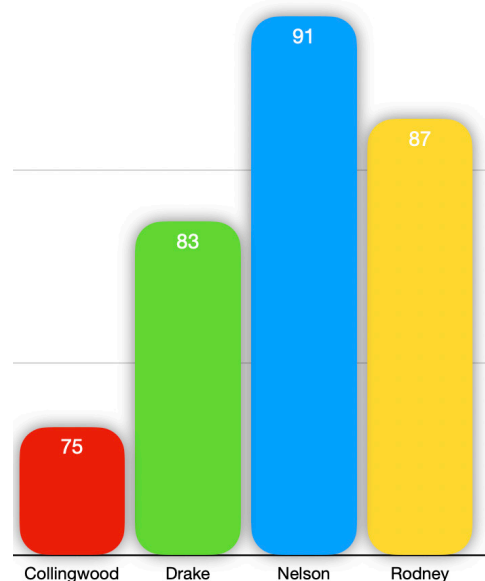
even share your pictures and thoughts, just remember to keep it polite and objective!

5. Clipping. We will be giving our top tips to clip safely and what kind of clips might be best, depending on the level of work your pony is doing.

We would love to see your efforts, so please send in your photos or videos to LuctonNews@luctonschool.org and we may feature one or two on our social media!

Miss Coates

House Merit Totals



*Numbers accurate 15th January 2021