

# Lucton News

FROM THE HEADS  
PREP SCHOOL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SENIOR SCHOOL  
CCF  
SIXTH FORM  
BOARDING NEWS

Jan 22nd 2021  
Issue 17



# From the Heads



**How different school is now, and how quickly we have learnt to communicate virtually, and remotely!**

We are certainly looking forward impatiently to the time when Lucton will be fully open and back to normal, as no doubt are all the children and parents. Even with the vaccine being rolled out at pace, we realise that this might be a way off yet.

The government has promised a two-week notice on the full re-opening of schools, and it

is to be hoped that we will receive the good news sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, the remote and blended teaching and learning are going well; thank you for all the positive and encouraging messages from parents. We, in turn, would like to thank our parents for their continued support, and to congratulate the students on their hard work and overwhelmingly mature, sensible approach during online lessons. It is encouraging to see the

initiative of both staff and students: who would have thought that everything from CCF to a pets 'Show and Tell' could happen via a screen? As we continue our on-line lessons, assemblies and other activities, we will probably see many more creative ideas from pupils and staff alike, to keep up morale until we can all meet again in person.

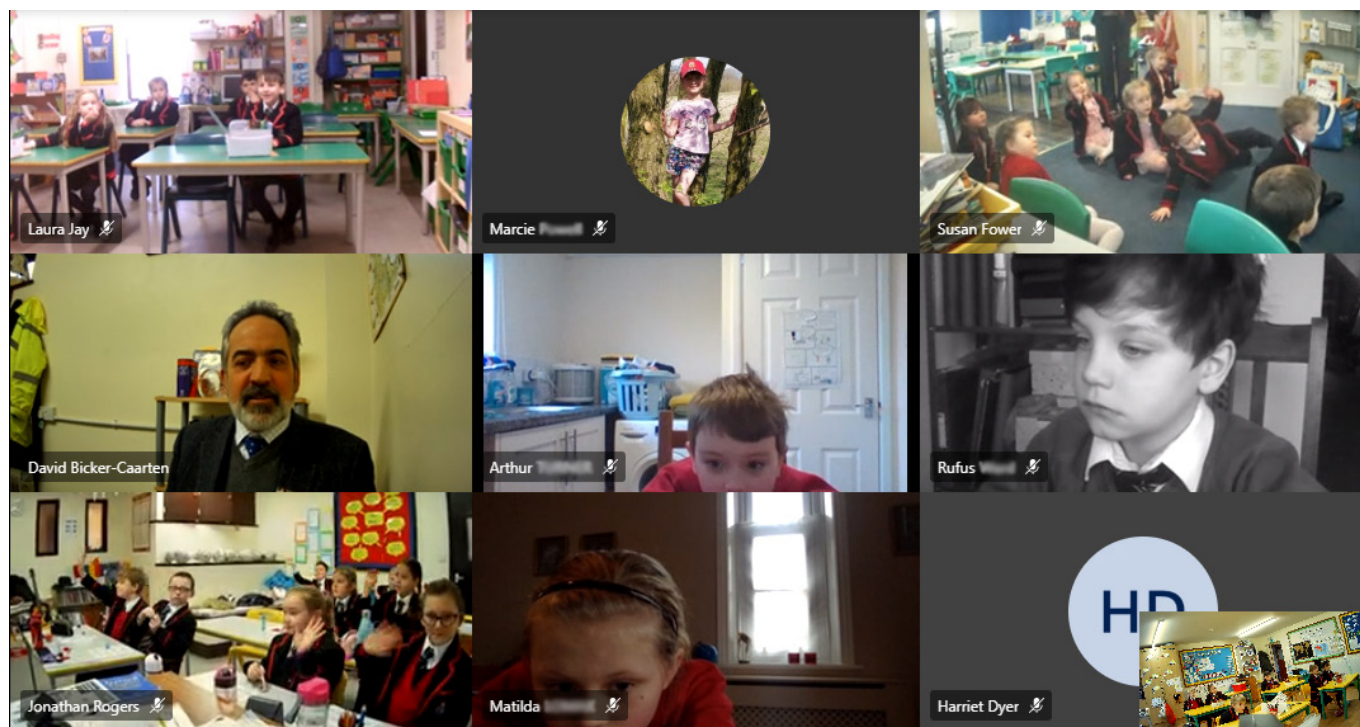
In the meantime, the Nursery continues to stay fully open and it is a pleasure to visit the staff and children there, even at the risk of being attacked by dinosaurs! It is also a delight to see the children around the grounds, all tucked up in their warm coats, completely oblivious of the stresses and strains of life at the moment. Their shrieks of laughter and big smiles are such a tonic to us!

**Heads of Lucton  
John Goode and Elmién Niblett**





# Prep School



**Our Friday assemblies have changed again. In order to avoid meeting in the hall, whilst still having something that is shared by the whole school, I am now 'broadcasting' from my office!**

It is quite fun to see the classes all joining in and we will continue to experiment with what can be done. Last Friday the theme was "Responsibility" and how we can be responsible for our own actions and for our school. One responsibility that we whole-heartedly endorse is being kind to each other. Another is to work to the best of our abilities. Having fun is also on the list!

We appointed our new Head

Girl and Head Boy, Afia and Clay, and this week we will announce the House Captains. Although virtual assemblies work in one respect, and they are certainly better than nothing, we do look forward to getting back to our normal Friday assemblies.

In other news, Storm Christoph threatened to wash us away; however, we were extremely fortunate and managed to venture outside quite a lot between downpours. That said, the rain did actually provide the children with another toy to play with, although we prefer "learning resource"! How much water can we transport in various implements? How does the water stay in a tyre? And then, of course, the

perennial favourites: jumping over puddles and jumping in them. Some were extremely surprised to find that their shoes and socks got wet!

As for learning: there have been various Maths skills, from counting beyond 20 to working out fractions of numbers, from simple addition to long multiplication. English skills have ranged from simple words to long, descriptive paragraphs. I have noticed the testing of various cups to see which one is the best insulator (Year 5); whilst another class has been amazed at what is natural and what is man-made (Year 1). Children have been off to learn their instruments and there were some very odd noises coming from Year 5

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as they learnt about different tones and pitches in Music.

For the Drama Department, the Spring term is usually geared toward the Hereford Festival. We normally hear new poems being chosen or new dialogues being performed. Well, I am happy to report that similar noises are still happening. The Hereford Festival has been cancelled so we are planning a Celebration of Children's Work. In other words, a pared down festival chez nous. More details will follow as the restrictions are eased. Our

ambition is to hold it outside with an audience but, whatever happens, we will be working towards a performance.

A quick reminder that drop off should be from 8:30am; not before please. Also, when picking up please don't arrive too early, as nursery children are picked up from 4:30pm and their parents need to park as well. Otherwise, well done with the social distancing at these times.

**Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School**



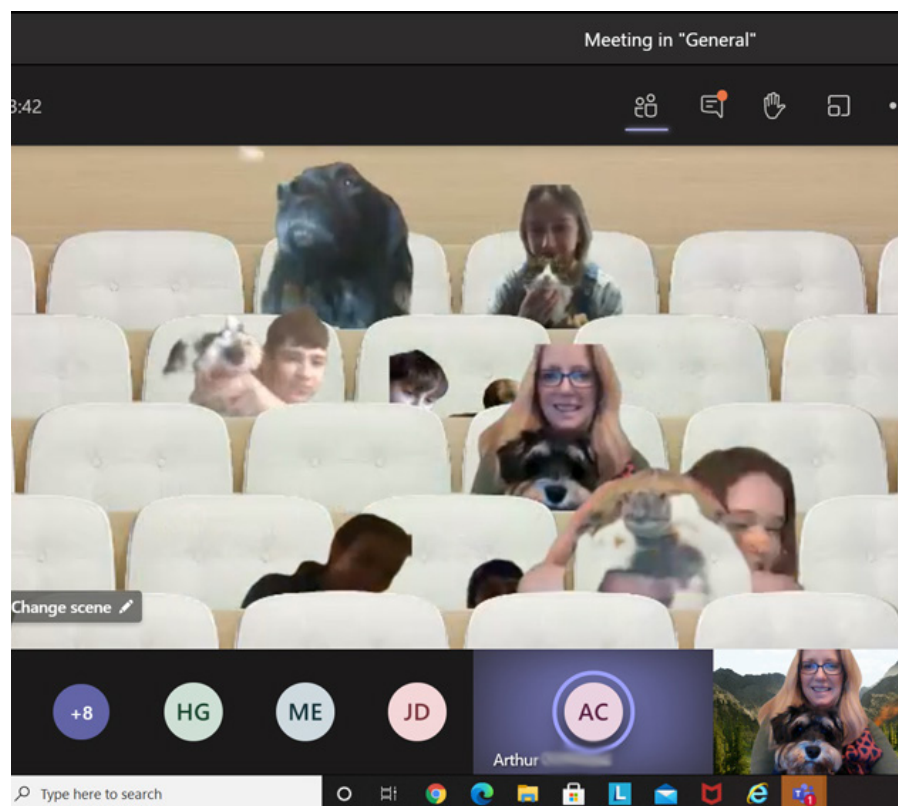
## Middle School

**Class 8B recently held its very own virtual pet show during form time!**

Members of the form introduced their various dogs (including some puppies), cats, and even a three-year-old tortoise! All animals were extremely well behaved and even when a doorbell sound was made, we had no barking at all.

We all agreed with Rev. Price's thoughts from his last week's assembly; what a godsend animals are during lockdown, and what joy and pleasure they give to us at this difficult time.

**Mrs Bassett, Head of Middle School**



## Big Garden Bird Watch 2021

**Now that you're juggling remote learning, you're probably spending a lot more time staring at a screen. Outside, however, nature is as busy as ever!**

Every year the RSPB run a special birdwatch for you to get involved with. This year the birdwatch runs from 29th-31st January. It is free to join in; you just need to sign up on the RSPB website. Why not participate, especially if you haven't done so before?

All you need to do is to go outside for an hour at some point during those three days

and count all the birds that you can see. Ignore any birds that are still in flight. To avoid double-counting, just record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time as opposed to a running total. You can submit your results online at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).

If you are not sure what type of bird you see, they even have a handy identification chart on their website. There are also lots of lovely ideas for ways that you can attract more birds to your garden. When you have a spare hour, get outside and watch the birds! Maybe set

up a competition with your friends, family or form and see who can spot the most!

Happy twitching! In case you don't know, that's the term that serious bird watchers use to describe this enjoyable and rewarding pastime!

**Mrs Berry**



## Senior School

**Senior School teachers are delighted with how well the remote learning is going, and with how well students (and parents!) are coping.**

It was a great shame that we could not hold the Year 10 Parents' Evening as scheduled this week, but good to hear that there has been plenty of communication between parents and form tutors. I am sorry that we still cannot tell the Year 11s exactly how their exam grades will be assessed this summer. We have added our contributions to the government consultation and

hope to hear soon what the arrangements will be. Rest assured, as soon as we know what is happening, we will communicate it to students and parents.

In the meantime, I am delighted to see the students simply getting on with their work and making progress in their studies. I am also pleased to note that productive conversations are taking place between Years 11 students, form tutors and Mr Wolstenholme regarding their future plans, which for many of them no doubt include the

Lucton Sixth Form.

Well done, everyone and keep up the excellent work!

**Mrs Goode, Head of Senior School**



# CCF

**"AI doesn't have to be evil to destroy humanity; if AI has a goal and humanity just happens to come in the way, it will destroy humanity as a matter of course without even thinking about it, no hard feelings." Elon Musk, Technology Entrepreneur, and Inventor.**

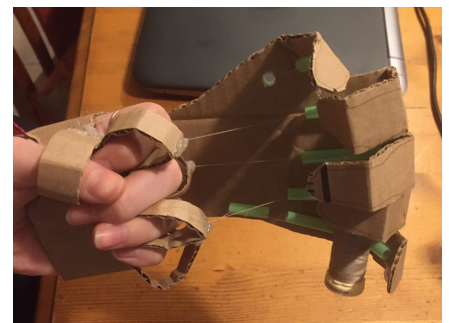
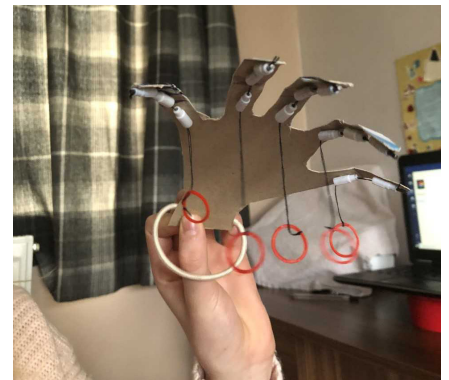
Bearing this in mind, the first task we set our Year 8 cadets during lockdown was to build a robotic arm from nothing more than cardboard, string, and some drinking straws - all very 1980s Blue Peter, for those of you who remember!

There were a number of blueprints they could choose to follow and most chose to build a human-type hand rather than a pincer- or digging/excavator-type.

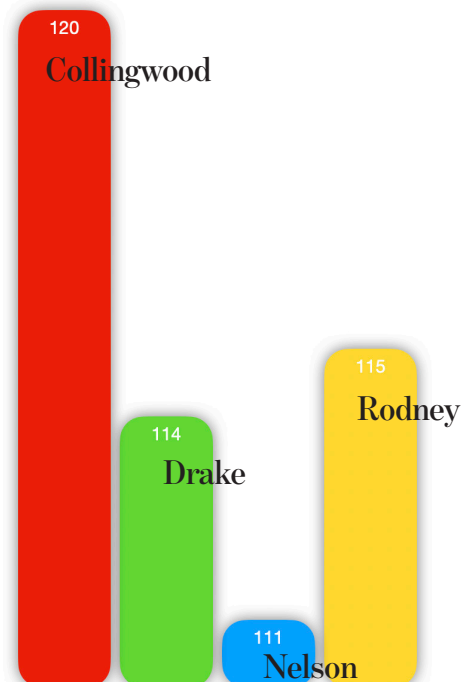
As you can see from the pictures, the cadets did quite well and some of the hands were really dexterous, able to pick up cans and cotton reels.

To those that took part; well done, excellent work and thank you for sending in the photos and videos.

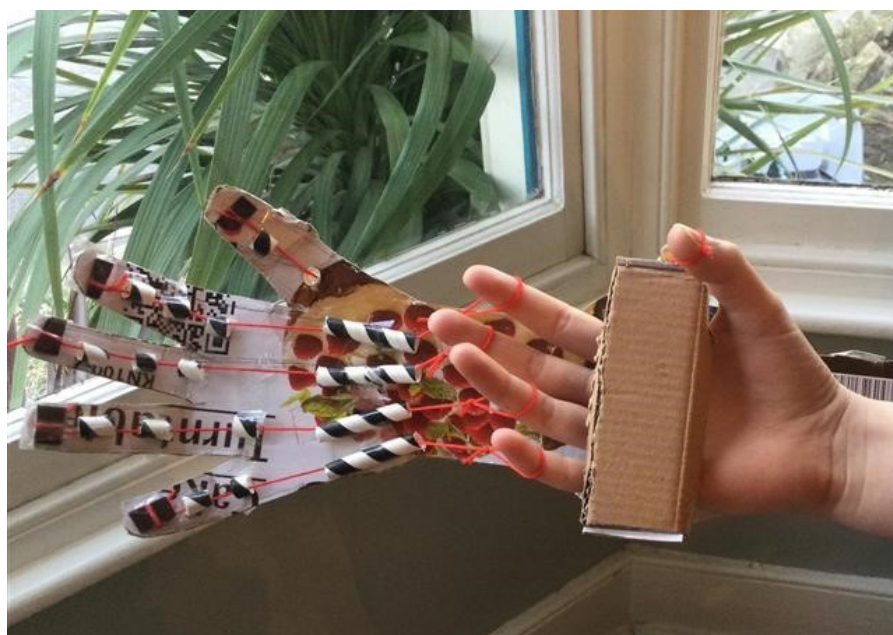
**Major C Derrigan & WO2 R Brown, Lucton School CCF Contingent.**



## House Merit Totals



\*Numbers accurate 22nd January 2021



# Sixth Form

**This week, our assembly was on 'Stranger in the Forest', a little-known book about Eric Hansen's journey into the heart of Borneo in 1982 and his attempts to adapt to living with the Penan people. It's a good read, and his sense of fascination, horror, admiration and disgust all come through as he wanders through the jungle.**

In many ways, we are wandering through a jungle of our own at the moment, adjusting to remote living. Like Eric Hansen, though, our aim must be to take the positives of our situation and use the difficulties to help shape and form us for when we emerge on the other side of lockdown, whenever that comes.

I have been amazed at how quickly new ways of working have been created, and how adaptable our Sixth Formers are. I have no doubt that they are finding new methods and techniques of organising their work, which they may well decide to keep as they continue through their educational journey. We often talk about being flexible and adaptable as key skills in the workplace, and our Sixth Formers have certainly shown they have these skills!

In other news, university offers continue to roll in for our Year 13s, and several students have

contacted me recently with good news. Aaron has so far received offers from Exeter, Manchester, and Leicester; John from York, and Queen Mary; Keira has been accepted on to her chosen course at Hereford College of Arts, to name but a few. This is all reflective of the excellent effort they have put in, and I know they are all working very hard to ensure they hit their target grades now.

The Year 12s, meanwhile, have been ploughing on through content, and we have quite a few EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) entrants this year too. As well as earning UCAS points, the EPQ is a fantastic way to study a specific topic of choice. This year for example, we have investigations into the viability of electric cars, musings on the consequences of the financial crisis of 2008, and an evaluation of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, amongst others! The EPQ offers a fantastic way to bridge the gap between school and university, as the emphasis is on the students to develop their independent project management, research and implementation skills. I'm looking forward to seeing how they develop!

Finally, it has been a pleasure speaking with our Year 11s as we host virtual Teams

interviews on Wednesdays and Fridays. Alongside their Form Tutors, we have been able to discuss options for Sixth Form, offer advice on courses and highlight individual students' strengths. The students we have seen so far have been engaging, polite and a real credit to themselves; exactly the type of student we wish to keep at Lucton!

**Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form**

## Ex-Head Girl Shares Her Wisdom

**Our Level Three BTEC Health and Social Care students had an excellent, informative remote discussion with recently-qualified nurse (and former Lucton Head Girl) Anna Paterson.**

The students are studying a module called "Working in Health and Social Care", and were interested to learn first-hand from Anna about what it takes to train as an outstanding nurse in the NHS, and the work that she does on a daily basis.

Naturally, the students were full of questions about the impact of the current COVID 19 epidemic on the healthcare

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service, and they were impressed by Anna's calm, professional and informed responses. Anna is currently working in Somerset, but we hope that she will be able to come into school as soon as conditions permit to talk to all our students who might be considering a career in nursing.

and Social Care students have gained some really valuable insights for their studies. Well done to the students for preparing and asking some great questions and many thanks to Anna for giving up her valuable time in what is a very busy period in her life.

**Mrs Goode**



In the meantime, the Health

## Boarding News

**We are moving slowly but surely towards half term now, and though there are no trips and external activities available for our boarding community, we are still busy at weekends!**

This weekend we were lucky to have Miss Quick help out in School Cottage. All the pupils spent some time in the school library on Saturday morning, decorating it for Chinese New Year and having a good tidy-up to make this lovely space even more appealing for the pupils in school. Afterwards, the pupils all enjoyed a breath of fresh air with a good walk out to see Jamie, Miss Quick's house rabbit!

Sunday saw the boarders having fun in the pool, burning off some energy before dinner, whilst some of our older ones had a fiercely fought game of monopoly against Mr Berry and Miss Holt!

Don't forget that the boarding house will be staying open over the February half term break for those boarders who might struggle to return home. If this is an option that you may find useful for your son or daughter, do speak to the School Office as soon as possible. If your child is returning home for the holiday

or staying with guardians, we would politely ask that you inform us of their travel arrangements to and from school as soon as you are able.

**Mrs Webb-Rogers, Head of Boarding**

