

# Lucton News

FROM THE HEADS  
PREP SCHOOL  
SIXTH FORM  
BOARDING  
LIBRARY  
COMIC RELIEF

Feb 12th 2021  
Issue 20



# From the Heads



**Reflecting on this half-term, the overwhelming feeling is that of gratitude!**

Yes, it has been stressful, but we are immensely grateful to the whole Lucton community for delivering, engaging with and supporting the teaching and learning so well, and for doing their bit to keep us all safe and to keep Lucton School free of the virus.

While heartfelt thanks are rightly due all round, we would like to acknowledge the particular burden that the pupils, especially those who are learning remotely, have had to bear. While we have sadly become familiar with news stories expressing concerns about loss of learning and the impact of COVID on the well-being in general of young people, we read something this morning that really resonated with us; "Do you know that no kids in the history of kids have ever had to do what you're doing right now? No kids in

the history of kids have ever had to do school at home..., watching their teacher on a computer. You and your friends are making history!" This made us realise that we really had to congratulate our pupils, whether learning remotely or in school. They are having to deal with a completely unprecedented set of circumstances, which are totally beyond their control. Nevertheless, they are getting on as best they can, adjusting to every change and blip along the way, and they are doing it very well. So, to all our pupils, thank you and congratulations on all you are achieving; you should be very proud of yourselves!

As usual, apart from the heroic Nursery, administrative, maintenance, and equestrian staff, who all work through every holiday, most of us are looking forward to a restful week to recharge the batteries. Nevertheless, please contact the office if you urgently need to get in touch with any of the teaching staff. And, to those of you preparing for public examination assessments, pace yourselves but keep going despite the uncertainty of the format of these assessments, so that you achieve your best possible results. We are hopeful that the exam authorities will soon give teachers, pupils and parents the clarity they need.

We will all be back in front of the screens on 22nd February, but could we respectfully remind parents who are critical workers that they should only send their children into school after half term if they cannot possibly learn remotely, at home. Having said this, the government has promised schools that we will have two weeks' notice of the arrangements for re-opening, which is currently planned to begin on 8th March. This being the case, we hope to be able to advise parents and pupils of when we can get back to something approaching normality in the near future.

Wishing everyone the best half-term break possible and that you all stay safe.

**Heads of Lucton  
Elmien Niblett & John Goode**





# Prep School



**You might have noticed that we have been, albeit loosely, following the theme of friendship. Last Friday's assembly explored this through the idea of neighbours and by posing the question: who is my neighbour and do we have to be friends?**

With all great questions we turn to great teachers, and Jesus was certainly no exception. Through the often-told parable of the Good Samaritan, we learn that everyone is our neighbour, whether they are close by or live in another country. Jesus had been questioned about the commandment "You shall love

your neighbour as yourself." Who was our neighbour? Well, although we all know the answer (EVERYONE!) we do need to be reminded of this; and let's be honest, if we all treated each other how we would like to be treated, then life would be a lot more peaceful. So, let's give it a go.

We have reached half-term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families at home and at school. To those that came in, well done for keeping to the rules: HANDS, FACE, SPACE. Doing that has enabled us to deliver our teaching to the best of our ability. To those

at home, well done as well! Sorry for the technical glitches - particularly to those being taught by me! The parents at home have done a super job as well and joined in with complete enthusiasm and watching slime being made at home (and at school) was great. Simultaneous Science lessons in Year 3 were fascinating and as for the invited guest speaker, what a triumph! Nothing beats being in the classroom but this is as close as we can get and a big thank you goes out to both the teachers in the classroom and the newly co-opted teaching assistants at home.

(Continued over)

We have some very interesting events in the pipeline for the next half of the term. First on the list are our virtual Parents' Evenings on 1st and 2nd March. We will send out the appointment sheet for the evening in the coming weeks. Next up is World Book Day on 4th March, and we invite our students to channel their inner book character and get dressed up. Mr Rogers can't wait, but then again, he already wears his Dr Who scarf and hat on a normal day. Science Week is in the week of 8th March, so watch out for some experiments then. Then, of course, we have Red Nose

Day on 19th March. We have a range of events in mind that will occupy the whole day. At the moment we are planning a talent show, cake sale and then a variety of sporting events to raise money and have fun. More details to follow but keep those dates in mind.

I hope that you enjoy the half term break. Remembering, though, that Tuesday 16th is Shrove Tuesday, so get those pancakes going!

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



## Year 5

**This week, Year 5 took part in an online workshop all about the UK Parliament.**

The children, both in school and at home, were able to take part in a debate regarding laws that they would like to be enforced!

They also learnt about what happens in The House of Commons and The House of Lords.

**Mrs Leonard**



## Reception

**This week, Reception Class have been very lucky to have Annis and her mum share with them via Teams how they celebrate the Chinese New Year.**

The children have enjoyed learning about what people might wear, eat and do and they have found out that they were all either born in the year of the goat or the year of the monkey.

In the picture we see Annis with a Chinese New Year decoration she brought in. It is meant to be displayed upside down so that the good luck pours out!

**Mrs Fower**





# Sixth Form



**With half term now upon us, I encourage all our Sixth Formers to switch off their screens and visit the far-flung places they've never been to before - perhaps the Caribbean, America's Mid-West, or even St Petersburg in Russia.**

Obviously, this is impossible in the real sense at the moment, but dive into Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, or Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and you will understand what I mean! Let's not forget we can still move through space and time by engrossing ourselves in a good book! I have to say that *Moby Dick* is one of those American classics that's eluded me for years, so I've picked that up (for free even) on the Kindle as my book of choice for this half term.

I noticed Mr Bicker-Caarten highlighting the importance of reading last week to the Prep students, and the message is no different up at this end of the school. Reading for its own sake, outside the classroom, is vitally important. Not only does it broaden horizons, enhance vocabulary and improve written work, but it also helps connect you to a deep well of culture. Our Sixth Formers have access to general reading lists handed out at the beginning of term, and I would strongly encourage them to revisit these in their spare time.

And so, we turn to half term, having now completed weeks of online learning. Our Sixth Formers have been a real credit to themselves and the School in the way they have approached the challenges

remote learning throws up and I know they are putting themselves in the best possible positions as we move forward.

It has been good to see them stick to routines, pursue extra-curricular interests and really engage with their lessons since the start of term. Very well done, and you all deserve to enjoy a well-earned break! We look forward, moreover, to seeing Sixth Formers in person in the not-too-distant future.

**Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form**

# Boarding News

Well, the last few weekends have been as busy as always in the boarding houses and with slightly fewer students we were able to try some different activities.

Mr Berry and Miss Holt ran a very successful "Great Lucton Bake Off" in Croft House, which was lots of fun, particularly for the hungry judges! School Cottage had a games night of scavenger hunts, Pictionary and Charades, run by Mr Pepper and Miss Shaw, and we celebrated Chinese New Year and the last week of the half term (admittedly a few days early!) with a delicious meal on Wednesday evening.

This half term has certainly been one like no other, and I think that all of us will be glad of a rest next week. Many of our boarders are home already of course, others will be travelling home or to guardians

for a break, and a handful will be staying as part of our family for half term. Wherever they go, we hope they have a relaxing break and get away from their screens whenever they can!

## Mrs Webb-Rogers, Head of Boarding

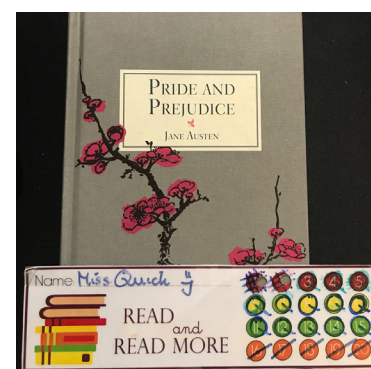


enduring great themes in literature, from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream, through classic fairy tales, such as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty, and the novels of Jane Austin and Thomas Hardy, right up to modern day teen fiction, including the likes of Harry Potter! There is also no greater love than a love of books and reading!

Over the half term I'd like to challenge all the students at Lucton to take a picture with or of your favourite romantic story. Please send them to me by February 24th ([h.quick@luctonschool.org](mailto:h.quick@luctonschool.org) or via teams) to receive merits. All entries will be displayed in the library.

I will also be reprinting the 20 books punch hole bookmarks after numerous requests. If you aren't in school and would like to start this challenge, please keep a list of all the books that you read during this time.

## Miss Quick



## Library News

Romance is in the air as Valentine's Day approaches and Spring draws nearer.

Romance is one of the



# Comic Relief 2021



**In addition to our usual cake sales and other fund-raising initiatives for Comic Relief, we have set the audacious challenge of running "virtually" from Lucton to our sister school in Shanghai, China!**

Completing the challenge virtually not only means that we won't have to deal with quarantine restrictions but, crucially, when we get there we won't have to run all the way back..

The distance we need to cover is 10,000 km, which is actually slightly further than the distance from here to Shanghai, but which sounds considerably better than the precise distance. For those who crave precision, the actual distance is 9,292.352 km, but what's 707.648 km between friends?

For those of you that shudder at terms like "PB" and "sweat-wicking", have no fear. If you prefer, you can walk, swim, cycle, or ride a horse. Whether you are a marathon runner, dog walker, or just want to log your daily trips to and from the fridge, it all counts!

The race is open to all students, staff, parents, grandparents, pets, etc. We have some tremendously active families, so if any school can do this it's Lucton.

In order to take part you will need to submit your mileage to Strava. Many of you will be familiar with Strava, but if you haven't used it before it only takes a few minutes to download the app and sign up, and you can submit data from a variety of fitness trackers (watches, mobile apps etc). Once registered, you will be able to join the Lucton School Red Nose Challenge club and begin logging those kilometres! If you absolutely can't use Strava, you can also pass your recorded totals to the Form Teacher; however, it's a lot more fun to track our collective progress digitally.

We will be emailing students and parents next week with



**STRAVA**

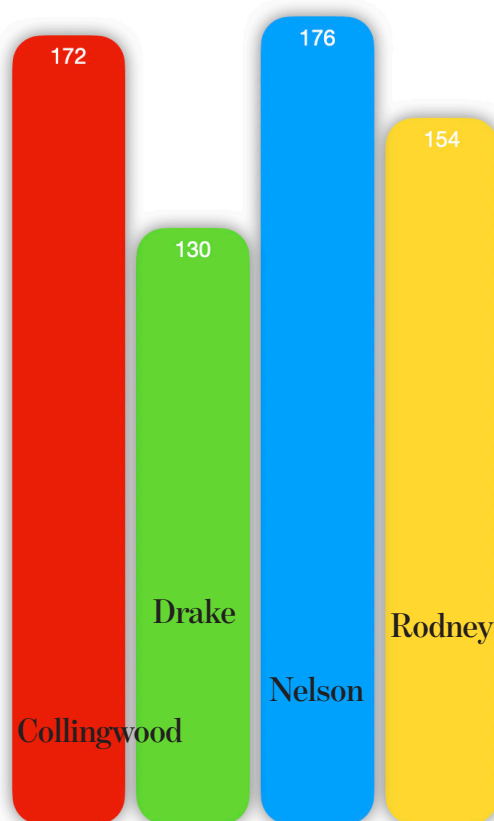


fuller details on how to take part, in addition to a link where you can submit donations should you wish to do so.

Time to start stretching..

**Mr Norton**

## House Merit Totals



\*Numbers accurate 12th February 2021