

Lucton News

FROM THE HEAD
CURRICULUM EVENING
BOARDERS RETURN
UPCOMING DATES

September 9th
2021
Issue 34



From the Head



It has been a wonderful first full week back and I continue to be impressed by our pupils. There is a lovely, positive atmosphere around the site and I have been really pleased to see everybody integrating so well and living up to my most important school rule to simply 'be nice'.

A particular highlight of the week was of course our 'Welcome Drinks' on Tuesday, and it was great to see so many parents there. We were blessed to enjoy 28 degrees of sunshine in our beautiful surroundings, which I hope was a promising omen of a bright future ahead.

Our pupils have certainly been active and working hard this week. I've particularly enjoyed popping into a number of lessons, observing our varied activities programme, and experiencing my first Friday

Prep assembly (and what an experience it was – no need for a morning coffee when Mr Bicker-Caarten is around).

It was also good to watch pupils work hard on the sports fields on Wednesday, despite the sweltering heat. Particular congratulations to our U16 girls for their fantastic contest against Shrewsbury School after so much time off from school fixtures, which ended in a 5-5 draw.

I will be writing to parents shortly about a questionnaire to complete about the school, for those who would like to. I will be using the responses to feed into our School Development Plan, so any feedback will be gratefully received. I will also be writing about a couple of exciting boarding initiatives that we have planned. As ever, please also feel free to get in touch

with me directly if you would like to: head@luctonschool.org

On that note, we are proposing some changes to how we communicate with you, which we would value your input on. We want to make it easier for you to receive our most important news and notices, so we are proposing to summarise these in a weekly bulletin instead of sending separate emails throughout the week. This bulletin would take the place of The Lucton News, which would become a half-termly publication. We will publicise our usual Lucton News content via our website and social media channels instead.

Thank you for all of your support and I hope that you have a great weekend.

Mr Tyler
Headmaster

Curriculum Evening



28 Celsius did little to hamper the attendance at Tuesday's Curriculum Evening.

The event, which began with an address from Mr Tyler, attracted over a hundred parents who had the opportunity to meet staff before learning more about their child's curriculum.

Thanks must go out, not only to staff, but also to our wonderful Sixth Form students for serving refreshments.

For those who were unable to attend the event please find a transcript of Mr Tyler's address on the following page.



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Mr Tyler's Address

"Good evening everyone. I'm Jon Tyler, and I'm delighted to be the new Headmaster of Lucton School, having moved here from Wiltshire with my partner Becky.

The most important thing that I want to say tonight is thank you: thank you for coming, thank you for your support, and I especially appreciate you joining us on what has been a boiling hot day.

It actually brings back some bad memories of my very first day in teaching, when my new Head told the staff that he had just suspended 120 students because they decided they didn't want to go to school during a heatwave. So instead, they decided to go out on the school fields and burn things. And the parents, who were naturally worried about this type of behaviour, wrote in to express their concerns to the Head. But their concerns weren't about the pupils' behaviour; they were concerned by the school's behaviour for not supplying those truanting pyromaniacs with water and sunscreen while they were outside burning things on a hot day. So thank you for being here and not filling my inbox with those kinds of complaints today.

I have to say that I've loved my first few days here. I wasn't

quite sure what to expect, and each day is still full of surprises. This morning, I was chasing a bird out of reception; yesterday, I was trying to find out the identity of Spiderman after a Sixth Former was roaming around the school in a Spiderman mask; but the students have been amazing and there's a lovely, really positive atmosphere around the school.

It's also been really nice to hear from many of you about how the school has helped your sons and daughters, and I'm reminded of something that I was once told when I first got into teaching, which is that there are three incredibly powerful forces in schools: the pupils, the staff and the parents. When we are on the same side, we can achieve great things together, but if only one of those is not then it becomes almost impossible to make real progress.

I feel that right now, we have great pupils, we have caring staff, and we clearly have supportive parents, so I'm really excited about the direction that we're heading in. I'm told that we're also close to raising some funds to develop various aspects of the site, perhaps finally renovating the changing rooms or the music practice rooms.

And on that note, I must say a big thank you to our PTA, the Friends, for all of their work for the school. A special thank you to Jade for running it, to Suzanne for arranging the Joules sale that I'm told was so successful here in July, and of course a huge thank you to all of those who have contributed to such a superb Prep School entrance – especially Nigel, Paul, Chris, and our very own Mr Bicker-Caarten, all of whom have worked tirelessly throughout the summer – so our thanks to them.

Our mission now is to provide the absolute best care to your sons and daughters. I said to staff and pupils last week that what I want is for pupils to be happy and to achieve – and in that order.

Academically, we know from a national analysis that we help students to get at least one whole grade better in each subject than they would be expected to get elsewhere, and we're very proud of that, but I care even more about pupils enjoying school.

I want them to want to come to school – quite a radical notion for some teenagers in particular – but I firmly believe that if they enjoy being here, then the learning and the achievement will

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follow, whether that comes academically, in an extra-curricular pursuit, or just in becoming a really nice person who develops the confidence and readiness that they need for life after school.

I know the school is not perfect, and I know that there have been some issues in previous years. I will be sending out a questionnaire to ask for your feedback about all of the things that the school does really well - and hopefully you think there are lots of those - as well as the areas that we can develop further.

Please let us know if we can ever help. You can always contact your child's Form Tutor, the Head of School, Deputy Heads, now that Mr Goode and Mrs Niblett have stepped back to their usual roles as Deputy Heads, and you can always get in contact

with myself personally as well. I am determined that every pupil enjoys being here, achieves while being here and that you get the top service that you are paying for.

It's not always going to be smooth sailing and especially as your sons and daughters enter those teenage years, maybe you'll find they're not quite as excited to come in as they once were, maybe their grumbles begin to stack up, but I would ask you to remember the words of one of my former Heads, who used to try to strike a deal with parents. He said:

'If you promise to believe only half of what your kids tell you about us, we promise to believe only half of what your kids tell us about you'.

Seriously, we are here to help and we want pupils to be

proud of being here and we want you to be proud of your choice of schools for them.

As I said at the outset thank you for being here, thank you for your support and please do enjoy the rest of the evening."

Mr Tyler
Headmaster



Boarders Return

After a busy return to school life the weekend provided our boarding pupils with a chance to relax and for those who are new to the school to see some of the wider surrounding areas.

Friday night saw the term's first trip to Morrison's for the Croft House pupils to stock up on tuck and other essentials. Meanwhile the School Cottage spent a lot of the evening making the most of the



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school's outdoor facilities, engaging in lots of active games.

Saturday saw the pupils head towards Gloucester with the older students spending some time shopping at the Quays and eating at the various restaurants and market stalls around the area. The younger pupils had a packed lunch on the docks before heading to the cinema to watch the Croods 2, which was enjoyed by all. On their return to school many of the pupils spent a considerable amount of

time out on the field whilst others played a variety of boardgames in the common areas.

Finally, Sunday gave the pupils a chance to rest and recuperate before the afternoon prep session and house tidying. Generally, a great weekend was had by the students, and they seem to be ready to press ahead with the first full week back at school.

Mrs Webb-Rogers
Head of Boarding



Upcoming Dates

Friday 10 Sep 2021

08:50 Year 2 Assembly
14:00 Sixth Form Trip to Oakerwood

Saturday 11 Sep 2021

RAFAC Muster RAF Cosford

Sunday 12 Sep 2021

11:00 Battle of Britain Service Hereford Cathedral

Tuesday 14 Sep 2021

09:20 Year R Healthy Living
Talk with Lulu - School Matron

Wednesday 15 Sep 2021

U16 Boys ISA Football (a) Venue TBC
10:00 Dying to Drive - Leominster Police Station
14:00 U13 Rugby v Bedstone (a)
14:00 U18 & U16 Netball v Ludlow (h)

14:15 U15 Hockey v CCB (a)

14:15 U13 & U11 Hockey v Abberley (a)

Friday 17 Sep 2021

08:30 Year 11 & Sixth Form Geography Field Trip to Borth
08:50 Year 3J Assembly

Saturday 18 Sep 2021

Skill at Arms Training Day

Open Day

Middle - Senior - Sixth Form

Thursday 30th September
4.30-7pm

To register please contact
admissions@luctonschool.org

A photograph of a young man in a school uniform sitting at a desk, looking down at a book or paper. The desk is cluttered with books and papers.

Open Morning

Nursery & Prep School

Friday 1st October
9.30-12pm

To register please contact
admissions@luctonschool.org

A photograph of three children in school uniforms standing in a field of yellow daffodils. They are looking towards the camera.