

From the Head



It has been quite an introduction to headship this half of term and it's difficult to know where to begin as I look back on it, except to say thank you to all of our students, staff and parents for the wonderful support that I've received. I must not forget our Governors too. Lucton is clearly a special place and I feel honoured to lead it.

There have been too many highlights this term to recall in one column. Personally, I will never forget the touching assembly that our lovely Year 11 students did about me, which really summed up the one school rule that I've tried to emphasise above all others: 'be nice'.

Our students have consistently shown themselves to not only be nice, but talented too. They have won sports matches

and competitions; they have completed CCF training and D of E expeditions; they have performed and developed musically; and they have consistently represented the school with pride, most notably at our two vibrant Open Day events.

Of course, they have also had to work hard academically, and I hope that they can enjoy a well-deserved rest over half-term.

It's also been a busy period for us as staff, as we look to evolve in order to deliver the best education possible. We've already introduced a number of changes, not least in appointing new Heads of the Middle and Senior Schools, and we will be using your survey feedback to inform our Development Plan moving forward.

Sadly, we will be losing a particularly valued member of staff at half-term and I would like to personally thank Pip Hall for all she has done as my PA, and also as our HR and Admin Manager. I am glad that we will still be seeing plenty of her as she supports us from the sidelines as a parent.

Finally, we have also made the decision to take a different approach with this very publication. I hope that you have been finding our weekly bulletins useful, and that you enjoy the new half-termly Lucton News. Feedback is always appreciated (head@luctonschool.org).

I hope that you all enjoy a restful half-term week.

Mr Tyler, Headmaster

Prep School



Well, where to start? It is quite unbelievable that we are 8 weeks into a new term and a new school year. Time has flown by and yet here we are, looking forward to half-term. Before we do that; a few highlights from the term.

Aside from the fact that we opened without 'bubbles', that we could actually walk into school without a mask and that we could have parents, friends and family join us, I think the first highlight for me was driving in on Monday 6th September to see a completely finished entrance with plants

and grass to finish it off. Mr Rutledge and Mr Koch came in over that weekend and the result is truly fantastic. The children love it and the games now extend to include it. Well done to all involved for a magnificent job. A definite Alan Titchmarsh moment.

Then the first Friday assembly in over 18 months with Year 2, who suddenly went all shy (and who can blame them?) with their performance of 'If I Never Forget Your Face' by Holly Meade - a call to always keep trying because you never know what may happen. 3J stepped

in the following week with 'The Anxious Leaf', and the message that worries about the future might not always be necessary. Year 1 took us on a journey of languages, telling us that we are all the same no matter what country we come from or the language we speak. 3D and the adventure of Sir Lylypad opened our Book Fair, as well as reminding us that stories can take us anywhere.

The Music Assembly was a delight and a wonder as always, with whole-class performances as well as some mighty solos. Then the Harvest

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Festival barged its way in, which was fabulous from all concerned and raised £720 to boot. The half term ended with Year R and their Bathroom Boogie message about keeping ourselves clean.

In between this, we had trips! Trips, yes they are back and thank goodness. Trips always help to add to our learning. There is so much that we can do at Lucton, but a trip will enhance it. Reception kick-started our forays with a visit to Mrs Brown's Garden. There are pupils in Year 13 who have been to Mrs Brown's Garden, and they still remember. So, thank you Mrs Brown, for getting it into such beautiful order. Reception Class always enjoy coming to see you, and

the fabulous soup they make afterwards adds to the event.

Shropshire Discovery Centre held sway for Class R, Years 1 and 2 with a woolly mammoth – even though it was centred on field-to-fork, but the woolly mammoth is always a bonus. Year 3 will be popping along after half term. Years 4 & 5 braved the weather on the Long Mynd with maps and hiked up to the source of the river.

We had Parents' Evenings face-to-face again, not on a webcam. That was lovely and nice to feedback about your children. Please remember that our door is always open aside from the formal meetings. We now have a mud kitchen as well as the Adventure

Playground to enjoy.

We are now looking forward to the next half of term! The Nativity has been chosen and I have a suspicion that Baby Jesus has already been cast. We join in with the Remembrance Parade. Children in Need is back – as are cupcakes, I hope. Reverse Advent continues and we look forward to seeing the Ballet Assembly – I am reliably informed that it is a take on A Christmas Carol. Then there is the panto and...well if this half term was packed, the next looks even more fun.

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

Pre-Prep

Year 1 and the Reception class have been busy bringing in the natural and manmade harvest this half term, making their own bread and jam!

Year 1 threshed some ears of wheat and ground the grain in a pestle and mortar to see the flour inside. Then measured out the ingredients, kneaded the dough and baked two beautiful and tasty loaves.

Both classes then headed outside to forage in the school hedgerows. Bravely facing thorns and stingers for blackberries, elderberries, sloes and haws, and after a bit

of scrumping in the orchard, we cooked the fruit to make Hedgerow Jelly.

We hungrily conducted a taste test – Yum! Yum! before sharing our creations with the rest of the Prep School at playtime, happily taking some home for tea as well. Delicious!

Rosehip syrup and roasted chestnuts, here we come!

Mrs Chapman



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Mud Faces

On 8th September, Years 2 and 3 children made mud faces in Forest School.

They started by mixing their own muddy concoction and selecting a good tree to display their creations. They foraged in the woodlands for materials to use as facial features and used acorns, feathers, leaves and anything else they could get their hands on.

Ms Dyer



Reception

Bike day

The Reception children enjoyed a much anticipated 'Bring your bike to school day' this half term. There were some super safety and cycling skills on display and everyone had a great time. Well done, Reception Class!

Growing and changing

As part of their topic on Ourselves, Reception Class have been considering how they grow and change over time. As well as sharing their own baby photos, the children were very pleased to be visited by baby Lolo.



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Healthy eating day

Reception class enjoyed their first trip out on the minibus when they visited a garden in Leominster to harvest a range of fruit and vegetables. They then returned to school to try different fruit smoothies, created by our School Chef, Paul, and to chop the vegetables to accompany their lunch the next day. Altogether, a very healthy and enjoyable time!



Discovery Centre

Reception and Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic Field to Fork workshop at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre. They made their own vegetable soup, bread and butter, then, after a delicious lunch, they spotted different vegetables

in the garden, used their senses to explore the museum and of course, they met the mammoth!

Mrs Fower



Middle & Senior

On Wednesday 15th September we took the majority of the Year 11 students to the road safety initiative Dying2Drive held at Leominster Police Station.

The purpose of the initiative is to educate with the view of reducing the number of Road Traffic Collisions involving young people as passengers and drivers. It was a striking and emotional event where we heard first-hand about the impact accidents have on people's lives. The students were exceptionally well behaved and participated fully.

Mrs Goode, Head of Senior School



It has been a busy half term for music and it is been absolutely lovely to have some in-person concerts again. The first event of the year was the Middle and Senior School concert.

This is a very informal type of concert and a brilliant opportunity for everybody to play regardless of how long they have been playing their instruments for. It is also an opportunity for the school ensembles to perform, and we had great performances from the Chamber Choir, Middle School singers, Junior strings and Rubato band. Many thanks to Mrs Kinnaird, Mr Maxim, Mrs Ruth, Mrs Berry and Mrs Taxis

for their assistance.

Just a few days after this concert we had a lunchtime recital up at Croft Castle. Again, it was lovely to be able to use the church again after lockdown. A much smaller scale concert this time with just some of our old musicians performing to a high standard and selling the school well. Many thanks to Mr Northwood for driving the bus and accompanying.

We have also had a choral evensong this half term, at St, Laurences Ludlow. The Chamber Choir were really on form and sang to very high

standard. Many thanks to Matthew for cantoring very professionally, Amelia-Sky and Felicity for reading the lessons so confidently. If there are any other members of the Lucton community who wish to join our Chamber Choir, or indeed singing parents just for events, you would be most welcome.

The final event that we have had is the prep school music assembly. On this occasion, it was a great opportunity for the younger students to show off their classwork as well as have a few brassy soloists!

We have a lot more in the diary in the run-up to Christmas and I

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really hope that you enjoy all of our forthcoming performances. Please do have a word with Mrs Wall or I if anybody would like to start music lessons, I'm always happy to organise taster lessons.

Finally, for any new parents, or indeed parents of pupils who have been here for a while, we have got a wonderful scheme that is being set up between us and St Laurence's church in Ludlow (where Rev'd Price is Rector). We are looking for any budding singers in any year from year three upwards. You will receive free singing lessons in school and a great musical education at St Laurences, and will also receive the title of Choral Scholar. Do get in touch if you're interested.

Mr Wall, Director of Music



During Year 8 Maths lessons, we have been examining ratio and proportion and discussing jobs that require using these, for example, being a chef and the importance of having the right amount of ingredients.

The students have enjoyed making fruit kebabs using different ratios to find out how many ways we can demonstrate the same ratio. We also made Oreo chocolate truffles to demonstrate how the right proportion of ingredients is vital in making the best meals. The Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands messy and seeing Maths in action!

Mrs Bennison



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London Theatre Weekend



In darkness, we gathered in the early morning mist to embark on our epic journey. This trip has been delayed a year, and expectations and excitement were running high; and that was just amongst the staff! Mrs Sharman, Miss Thompson and Mr Rogers did the first of many roll calls, ran through the coach rules, and we were off.

Our journey was smooth and comfortable and we were soon pulling up in Central London for our first appointment – a tour and talk at the Royal Opera

House. As we had some time to spare, Mr Rogers led the way on a walk through Leicester Square (statues of Mr Bean, Paddington and Mary Poppins, and the Game of Thrones throne) up to Piccadilly and Eros, through China Town and back to Drury Lane.

We then split into two groups and began our tour of the Royal Opera House. Our guides were so knowledgeable and professional, and we walked the corridors of this iconic building, listening to them with rapture. We all thought it was

a stunning venue and learned so much about its history, including one extraordinary party in which fountains of gin flowed and indoor fireworks were let off (with disastrous results). We saw costumes, the gorgeous Victorian auditorium, witnessed some dancers training on the terrace and saw the space for lunchtime recitals. Inspirational!

We then had some free time in Covent Garden before jumping back on the coach and heading to the river at Tower Pier for our Thames cruise.

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Again, our guide was fun and knowledgeable and pointed out many previously unknown facts to us as we cruised down the Thames under an ominous grey sky.

Later, we walked to the Novello Theatre for our evening performance of Mamma Mia! From the very start, our attention was caught by fantastic acting, singing and choreography. The pace was fast and had some hilarious moments, especially the stag party number where all the characters were dancing in scuba diving gear! We left the theatre buzzing and made our way back to our hostel for a well-earned rest.

After breakfast the next morning we set off on another Mr Rogers walking tour - this time of Trafalgar Square, and then up to Covent Garden where we entered the legendary Pineapple Dance studios.

Here we met with an actor from

the cast of Mamma Mia! from the previous night. Chloe took us on a high energy workout and taught the whole group two dance routines from the show. She was professional, talented and very friendly, and the Lucton students asked lots of insightful and intelligent questions at the end of the session.

By now, we had worked up an appetite so it was time for lunch, again in Covent Garden, and then we re-grouped to walk to our final destination, the Harold Pinter Theatre for our seats for Blithe Spirit.

This classic play was written by Noel Coward in 1941 and in this 2021 production, stars Jennifer Saunders as Madame Arcati. She, as expected brought the character to life with such humour and ease - and despite this being a very different style and mood to Mamma Mia!, was hugely entertaining for us all. The special effects on stage at the end when the two ghosts

haunt poor Charles had us all gasping in surprise. Having the chance to watch two completely different genres of theatre in such a short space of time gave us an opportunity to reflect on just how diverse the theatre world is, and how talented all the professionals who work so hard in this industry are.

We got back on the coach for the final time to start our journey home. The miles were made that much better by the quite frankly wonderful singing of many of our students, who put on a three-hour concert for us - singing songs from Mamma Mia! amongst many others.

The students really shone on this trip, and it was wonderful to see just how much they got out of their time in our capital; a very special trip indeed. Keep an eye out for Lucton does London 2022!

Mrs Sharman



CCF



Army

The Summer kicked off with a three-day training event at Oakerwood Leisure for our Year 8 Cadets.

Day one involved a number of activities to encourage teamwork, including raft building, a milk crate stack and a very high Jacobs ladder. The evening consisted of a BBQ expertly cooked by the Contingent Staff.

On day two the Cadets were introduced to some basic field craft including basha building, movement in the field, camouflage and concealment,

and an introduction to the 24-hour ration pack before spending the first night under their bashas within their sections. Their final day incorporated a morning of section drills and was completed with a melee of paintballing.

For the second year in a row, the MOD led summer camps were not fully available. This resulted in the Contingent Staff deciding to hold our own Cadet Camp, hosted at school and led by our own staff; first for Lucton School CCF. A total of 52 cadets and 7 members of staff from the

Contingent enjoyed a week consisting of a wide and varied range of challenging activities both military and personal development (adventure training). The week started with the Cadets spending the first day practising their navigation skills before a night navigation exercise and spending a wet night under their bashas.

The Cadets enjoyed a very good range package that allowed the junior and senior Cadets to take part in a competition shoot and to progress through their respective syllabus's (Army and

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RAF).

A military skills day saw the Cadets taking part in a variety of activities including first aid, close quarter battle (CQB), basic patrolling, personnel and vehicle search and building clearance; all skills that would be required for the final exercise.

The highlight of the week for many was the adventure training package, split over two days. Day one was spent at Symonds Yat, where the cadets put their climbing and abseiling skills to the test, finishing off with a pizza supper. Day two, was spent in the Brecon Beacons gorge walking and canyoning. For many Cadets this was the first time they had experienced anything like this. Walking behind and jumping from water falls whilst traversing fast moving water. Their faces were beaming when back at the drop off point, loving every second of it! The evening was spent enjoying a fish and chip supper.

The final exercise saw the Cadets assault the main school building in their sections - retrieving casualties and rescuing hostages before putting their first aid skills to the test. The final afternoon was filled by a small parade where a number of awards were presented for the shooting and special award for the best section from the Contingent over the duration of camp.



A massive thank you to all the Contingent Staff along with two instructors from Shropshire ACF, Paul the Chef and the parents who supported us throughout, and above all our Cadets whose enthusiasm and commitment never ceases to amaze me.

Major C Derrigan, Contingent Commander



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RAF

The RAF Section had an exciting start to the term with the Muster at RAF Cosford on 12th September.

The event boasted many STEM stands. A few the Cadets enjoyed were using virtual reality headsets, becoming groundcrew and directing an aircraft to its parking position and competing against other Cadets to build a structure that would stand by itself and contain 4 people! There was also an extensive display of armoury including a Martin Baker Ejection Seat and other survival equipment.

The favourite stand was the multicrew lifeboat (pictured), where all the Cadets managed

to fit inside in one go; this was much more fun on dry land than it would have been in a rough sea! The main highlight

though, was the opportunity for Cadets to fly in an operational helicopter. Eleven of our Cadets flew in either a Chinook,



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which had an extended flight and four in the Puma which was very exciting as the doors were open for the entire flight.

For some, the weekend wasn't over; a stalwart team of Rifles and RAF Cadets acted as ushers at the joint Battle of Britain 81st Commemoration and the Royal British Legion 100th anniversary Service at Hereford Cathedral on Sunday, finalised with a small parade. Sgt Taylor-Woodward was asked to give a reading to represent the RAF at the event and did a commendable job.

On the 19th September, the

RAF Cadets were asked to provide a banner party to parade the Herefordshire RAF Ensign at the Unveiling of a Plaque to Commemorate the crew of a downed Lancaster from World War II. The event was particularly moving as ancestors of the crew participated in the event and, in particular, the younger sister of one of the killed crew was present. A very humbling and moving experience for the Cadets.

We now look forward to our first 'hands on' flying event of the term as 10 Cadets are preparing for their experience



in a Viking glider with 632VGS over half term.

Squadron Leader (retd) D. House

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form enjoyed their annual beginning of term trip on 10th September to Oakerwood where there was a lot of noisy shouting and splashing of water!

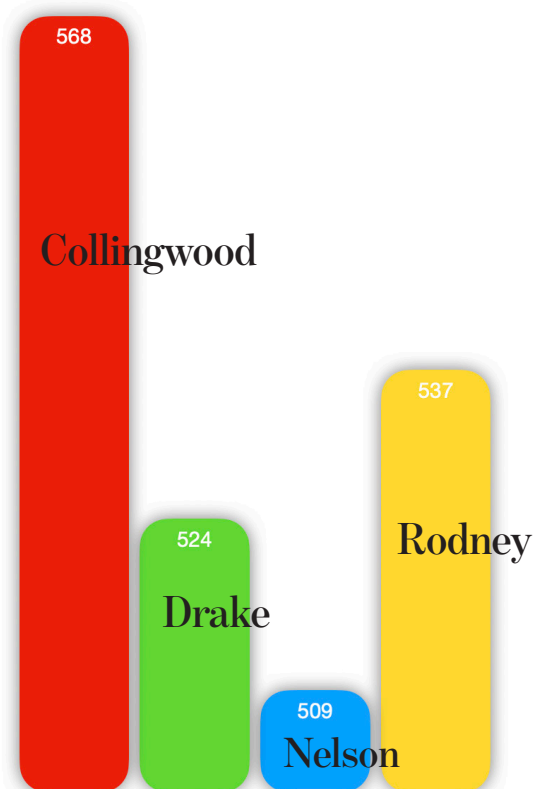
Arriving just as the rain stopped, the Sixth Formers got into three rafts and competed for honours in the Oakerwood Rafting Olympics. There was raft racing, timed challenges, events designed to test mental strength and physical balance, and it is safe to say that everyone ended up completely soaked.

There were many highlights; some people fell out too quickly, others couldn't get on quick enough, and Matthew's slow-motion tumble off the

back of his raft definitely stood out. Earning points for each event, one raft raced into a 12-point lead, only to blow it all toward the end. In the end though, the points didn't matter and everyone emerged rather bedraggled but having had a good time. Hot chocolate back at Lucton followed, and an excellent week ended in an equally excellent manner.

Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form

House Merit Totals



*Numbers accurate 22nd October 2021

Boarding

Well, what a busy half term this has been!

We finished the half term with a bang last weekend; a double trip to Laser Quest in Malvern, and a trip to the ice-skating rink made for a jam-packed day. This was made all the more fun by being joined by a record number of Friend Friday guests. It's fair to say that all the boarders had an absolute blast and were shattered on their return! If you would like to book your child in for a Friend Friday boarding night and activity, please contact me on boardinghouse@luctonschool.org to confirm details.

It has been such fun to have new boarders and extra guests in the boarding houses this half term, and it's lovely to have the buzz of fuller houses again. For me, the highlight of this half term has been getting to know



our newest students and the Spanish and Russian lessons I've received! I must say, it's been a pleasure to take the boarders out each weekend and see them create such a tight bond together- they are always an absolute credit to us.

I do hope that you all have a restful half term break, and I look forward to the boarders returning on Sunday 31st. Please note that houses will re-open at 12 noon.

Mrs Webb-Rogers, Head of Boarding

Individual Successes

Congratulations to George (#67), who is continuing to make an impressive impact in his rookie year on the karting scene.

16-17th October was the 9th round of the Fulbeck Sprint Series in Lincolnshire and the final round of the 6 round Tyro Championship. Three very hard-fought heats where George started 11th finished 7th, started 4th finished 1st



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and started 8th and finished 1st meant that he qualified on pole position for the final with the championship leader immediately behind him.

The final was an intense battle between George and the championship leader where after what seemed like an eternity for the spectators, George took the flag to win his first race in his rookie season and secure his second place in the Tyro Championship.

George is currently 2nd in both the Fulbeck Sprint Series Championship and the IKR (Independent Kart Racing) Championship with one round left for each to be held in November.



Mud Bath!

Well done to Arthur who, the day after his eighth birthday, completed the 3km Eastnor Castle Mud Bath race coming in 125th out of more than 260 finishers. He got a great medal and very muddy!

Charity 10k

At the start of September, our Finance Manager, Lian Lund, took part in a 10k jog, raising a mightily impressive £1,300 in aid of The Bracken Trust, in memory of dear friend, Jane.



Sport



As the leaden, grey skies and lazy days of August became a distant dream, bright sunshine and warm tropical air floated over the country, just in time for the start of term.

With a bounce in their step and anticipation of much longed-for fixtures, the aim of the game was to make the most of those skills learnt during lockdown.

A key focus of last year was to work on individual fitness and agility, with regular runs and swimming sessions. Early in October, the small group of Middle School runners who made the trip to Abberley for their first outing of the season, certainly impressed; especially Annabel, whose strong

run around the hilly course clinched a well-deserved silver medal, and led the team of Chloe B, Hedda and Rebecca to third place.

The annual ISA Regional swimming championship at Walsall made a welcome

return. After weeks of training, early morning sessions on a Monday, Swim Squad sessions on a Thursday and club sessions in the evening, a smaller than usual team (limited due to Covid restrictions) trekked to Walsall to test their speed and



endurance.

Undaunted by the strong competition, several pupils finished in the top three; Livia was second in the Year 7 backstroke and butterfly, Samraaj was third in the Year 7 breaststroke, Magnus was second in the Year 8 breaststroke and George achieved third place in the Year 10 backstroke. The team finished an impressive 7th overall, with both the girls and boys' teams scoring 40 points each.

Teamwork was very much a theme we developed last year and the season began well with the U16s travelling to Shrewsbury for a lacrosse match and a well-earned 5-5 draw and Scarlett B's talent and tenacity attracted the attention of one of the Welsh coaches. Subsequent Middle School matches against Packwood and Prestfelde were hotly contested with the girls making great progress in all areas of the game.

The boys began the season with some productive rugby training sessions, inspired by our new coaches, Mr Goodchild and Mr Helies. The Middle School boys impressed when scoring many quick tries against CCB's U13's and gained valuable experience when playing positively against Moor Park and The Elms. The U18s had a positive first game against CCB and although they lost 27-12, there was much to celebrate and the coaches are



looking forward to developing this team into a strong 7's squad in the future. The U15s were unfortunate, as external factors caused matches to be cancelled, although they learnt a lot during their first run out of the season at CCB.

Football is a sport many boys enjoy playing. To test their wits, guile and skill, a trip to Sutton Coldfield for the U16 ISA Regional Championships was organised and proved to be a very successful venture.

With Jack F at the helm, the boys excelled finishing second overall, with seven victories and one loss (they even defeated the winners), to finish one point away from victory. Joel B and Jack F were even spotted by American university talent scouts! Competitive matches for many age groups followed at Shrewsbury, with the U16s, a cohesive unit, winning 5-2, with an excellent hat-trick from Nathan.

The girls have been equally

successful. Having spent all of last winter playing 'field hockey' on Holland, a return to the astro at Bridge St was most welcome. Whilst the Middle School have enjoyed playing several matches, making good progress with every game, the U15s games have been scuppered, although they did play an exciting game at Shrewsbury, with Harriet E making several fine saves on her debut as goalkeeper. The U16s won or drew all their matches at the County 'friendly' tournament and grew in confidence throughout the competition. Unfortunately, rising cases of Covid caused the postponement of the U14s tournament.

With six girls selected for County netball training (Eno, Daisy E, Penny R, Scarlett P, Myra J and Daisy B) and several now playing in clubs outside of school, there has been a real buzz on the netball court. The time spent consolidating basic, core skills, has definitely paid off, with all teams playing slicker, sharper netball, especially at ISA and County tournaments. Under Faith P's excellent leadership, the U18s have grown in stature, showing great commitment to training (even in the rain) and match play, having won all matches for a positive start to the season.

The U16s, third in their section at the ISA Regional Championships, learnt much from watching the winners, Warwick High play in the final,

came back and started to emulate their style. Positive leadership from Sophie C, strong team work and consistent, focused play in every sphere of the court, resulted in a most unexpected, yet richly deserved victory at the U16 County Tournament. They were in the zone and up for the challenge, making few errors, whilst converting the majority of shots, to win all eight games. Not to be outdone, the U14s finished runners up at their tournament, winning six of the seven matches and definitely grew in confidence as the tournament progressed. Again, team work was key, as was calm leadership from Scarlett B who played brilliantly at centre.

Now, we really do have a challenge, albeit a good one, as both teams have qualified for the West Midlands Regional Finals in January and will need to 'up' their game!

Although frustrating at times, with many disruptions to the scheduled plan, the positive energy shown by the pupils has been rewarding. Whether making a debut in the badminton team in the first match of the season against Ludlow College, swimming, running or playing a team sport, it is inspiring to see such a large percentage, if not all of the year group take part in competitive sport.

Mrs Connop, Director of Sport



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007 Heaven



**SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2021
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