

# Lucton News

PREP SCHOOL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SENIOR SCHOOL  
SIXTH FORM  
CCF  
BOARDING  
SPORT

Dec 10th 2021  
Issue 36



# From the Head



**It is a shame that the story of this half of term cannot be told without Covid, but we are looking forward to hopefully get back to our usual full calendar over the coming months.**

In spite of the frustrating postponements and precautions, there has been plenty to be pleased with this half of term. Our students continue to impress in a whole variety of contexts, not only academically but in all kinds of pursuits outside of the classroom, from national swimming championships, to karting competitions, to performing on stage for theatre groups, to representing Lucton at RAF camps...the list goes on.

However, as impressive as our students' varied skills and achievements are, no

event made me prouder this half of term than our Act of Remembrance on 11th November. Seeing our whole community show such respect and thoughtfulness was a proud moment indeed, and one that epitomised everything that we strive to be about as a school.

Of course, there have been other worthy occasions too, despite the restrictions. Our Prep School Nativities left every audience member with a smile on their face; our 'Kindness Week' was an important reminder of our school values; and our boarders continued their programme of weekly trips and activities, including a spectacular fireworks display that was enjoyed by all. And who could forget the Prep School Christmas Show Jumping event, where horse-

riding and space-hopping combined to make a strangely compelling competition?

It's impossible to capture all of the highlights of the last few weeks in this column, but it's clear that Covid has not stopped us entirely. Our focus now turns to the new year and new opportunities. I hope to outline some of our ideas and goals in our School Development Plan next term, as we look forward to an exciting future.

In the meantime, I hope that you all have a great Christmas, and best of luck to our older students as they revise for their January assessments.

**Mr Tyler  
Headmaster**

# Prep School



**Well the last 6 weeks have certainly whistled by in something of a blur, with an awful lot happening, especially within the last two weeks.**

We should cast our minds back to Year 5's assembly on Bonfire Night. A mixture of fact, story and poems well-performed by all of them. The following week was the School's Remembrance Parade, which is always a solemn occasion for us all. The Prep children stood in their red coats, almost a field of poppies themselves. Although the youngest of the school aren't fully aware of why we

are there, the solemnity of the occasion always prompts many questions afterwards.

Then it was the LAMDA assembly. Having just found out that the exams were cancelled the day before, Mrs Rogers ensured that they all managed to perform either their individual or their group poem. As ever, I am always amazed at the children's ability to learn a poem (in the case of the older ones 2 poems and a group poem) off by heart with such wonderful expression. Hopefully, the exams will be on in the Spring Term.

The Autumn colours were late this year, which was fortunate for the Nursery walk through Queenswood. The children brought back some fabulous leaves and proceeded to decorate the classroom. Then it was Year 4 and their Children in Need assembly. Mr Rogers marshalled his class into a presentation reminiscent of the BBC. Presenters, comedians, dancers, and then a surprise guest all the way from Weymouth, Jack Sparrow (Mr Warren dressed up), with a video recording. This was followed by the traditional cupcake sale, with Mrs Rogers taking the sale to the rest

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of the school. We raised a fabulous sum of £259.62. Thank you to the generosity of all.

In almost the penultimate week, the weather put paid to, initially, our cross country but we still had our Reverse Advent Mufti Day which was great fun. Although it was a home clothes day, the Prep School enjoyed wearing costumes. Miss Penny's Ballet assembly brought this term's Friday assemblies to a festive end with a superb performance of the Christmas Carol. An ambitious undertaking given she only has the children for half an hour a week. But, from Transition to Year 5 the children were excellent. Well done to you all and well-done Miss Penny. We can't wait to see what you will come up with for next term.

The penultimate week was really about the Nativities. Two Nativities; one for Transition and one for Pre-

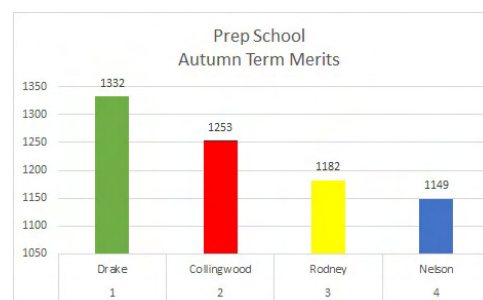
Prep. Thursday was the Dress Rehearsals, interspersed with flu vaccinations, and filming for the end of term Carol Service and then the performances proper. We were extremely fortunate that we could invite parents in. For some, this would be the last Nativity. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Wall for coordinating both Nativities as well as the staff for costumes, backdrops, face painting and so on. It was lovely to see these again. And we even managed a real baby; Iolo Wall stood in for Jesus at the end!

The last week was one of parties, pantomimes and Christmas Lunches. DJ Chris made a welcome return to the stage and whipped the children up into a controlled frenzy. Chris has been coming to Lucton for 9 years and his entrance is eagerly awaited by the children. There are students in Year 13 who remember him!

Threading through the last half of the term was our mighty Prep School Conker Competition organised by Mrs Chapman. This has proved to be great fun with each class winner playing to become the Champion of Champions. Our Inaugural champion was Vanessa.

And with that, we come to an end ready for Christmas and all that it brings. So, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us in the Prep School and Nursery.

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



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# Nativity

**Anyone entering the Prep School on Friday 3rd December could not miss what was happening: tinsel and tea-towels will never go out of fashion in Bethlehem.**

After weeks of preparation, the big day finally arrived, and we were delighted to be able to welcome a limited audience to watch each of our live performances.

The Transition class gave us a delightful 'Wiggly Nativity' in the morning. With the manger in the stable, and a blazing fire on the hillside, the stage was set for the traditional procession of shepherds, angels and Kings. Mary and Joseph travelled with their donkey, and, after some tricky negotiations with the Innkeepers, the animals in the stable welcomed them in with great enthusiasm. Everyone

was so excited they could hardly sit still; the amazing break-dancing chicken was a true embodiment of the line from one of the songs 'Dancing like they never have before'. It was a heart-warming pageant.

In the afternoon, with a few staging tweaks, we were ready to go again; this time, the Pre-Prep children presented us with a delightful twist on the well-known tale. The poor, put-upon Stable Boy, James, gave us his view on events; he struggled through the busiest night of his young life, all the while fantasising about his dream job - being a fisherman. Once again, Mary and Joseph were invited into the stable, this time with a stompy Innkeeper, bustling wife, and flouncy maid! The bouncing Baby Jesus might have missed the line about being meek and mild, but the whole performance was charming.

We all loved waving our glow-sticks, to set the night sky twinkling, and the cast sang beautifully throughout. In the epilogue, with a cameo from grown-up Jesus, as he left his fishing nets on the shore of Galilee to embark on the next, most exciting adventure, James showed us that dreams can come true.

Speaking of which, Mr Bicker-Caarten, did you spot the lobster? More than one ambition was finally achieved this year!

Thank you to all the staff involved; with crews of face-painters, technical support, and a piano recital to whet the audience's appetite, it truly was a team effort. The set and costumes looked fantastic, and the children were all brilliant. Well done, everyone!

**Mrs Wall**



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# Reception

This term, Reception Class led their very first Friday assembly, on the very relevant topic of good hygiene, acting out the delightful story of Bathroom Boogie.

## Autumn Walk

Reception Class enjoyed a superb walk at Queenswood - with coloured leaves and autumn treasures, places to run, climb and hide, and of course, the Gruffalo! A lovely morning with a wonderfully well-behaved class.

# Year 1

All dressed up in appropriate Forest School kit, Year 1 and Reception braved the winter weather and trooped off to the woods for an outdoor Christmas feast.

We sat around the campfire discussing how to use newspaper and kindling to light your fire and larger logs to keep it going and once the flames and smoke had died down and the embers were glowing, we took turns to use our newly made marshmallow roasting sticks to brown and caramelise our marshmallows. Mmmmmmm.....!

But we didn't stop there. We warmed our insides with a hearty cup of hot chocolate, sizzled some sausages and rounded our feast off by roasting some of the sweet chestnuts we had harvested

## Remembrance

Before joining the rest of the school for the Remembrance Parade, Reception Class explored the subject by working together to print a field of poppies.

## Diwali

Reception Class's topic for this half term was Celebrations and Diwali was one of the festivals covered. Elfine dressed up to celebrate in a beautiful Sari.

## Mrs Fower



from the Lucton orchard in November.

Everyone had a go, enthusiastically and sensibly, toasting and trying. Well done to you all. Lucton summer camp here we come.

## Mrs Chapman



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## Year 5

**Year 5's Geography topic this term was 'Rivers'. Children enjoyed a trip to Cardingmill Valley where they could see all of the features of a river in real life. Some children created some wonderful river models, which were very inventive.**

It was great to see the time and effort put into these models and it was a visual project which helped the children to learn. Well done to all those children that took time to create an amazing model.

The Art topic this term was 'Biscuits', and the children have absolutely loved their lessons. Children were tasked with creating their very own biscuit design, including flavours, and packaging. It all started off with taste testing a variety of biscuits to see which biscuit they liked the most. Children then came up with some designs for their own biscuit. They had to think of a theme to bring their biscuit and box together. Children had to think about important information that they needed to include and think about the design of their box.

I think it is fair to say that the best part was baking the biscuits! All the children came in with their various cutters and decorations and set to work; producing some wonderful biscuits! The finished products were amazing and the children

should be very proud of what they have achieved! It was very pleasing to see their completed boxes with their own biscuits inside and the smiles on their faces said it all!

Year 5 enjoyed a one-night stay at Oaker Wood. It was a very action packed few days where the children took part in high ropes, low ropes, team building games, and rafting was a favourite. All children were very brave in climbing a 55ft tree to reach the top before abseiling back down. Children especially enjoyed jumping off the raft and swimming in the lake. In the evening, children gathered around the campfire to toast

marshmallows and drink hot chocolate. After the year we have had, it was great to see the children enjoying the outdoor space and having the time to be children and play with one another. Children were exhausted and they still had the rest of the week to get through. At least they had play rehearsals and the aquathlon which they all enjoyed.

Well done, Year 5! Very proud of you all.

**Mrs Leonard**



# Middle School

**It has been a busy Autumn Term for the Middle School. Lessons have been full of new and interesting topics and it has been impressive to see motivated and enthusiastic learning taking place.**

We have been lucky enough to compete in sports fixtures again and it has been lovely to see such enthusiasm for sport across the Middle School. During breaktimes, the extremely competitive Table Tennis Competition took place, with Hedda and Archie proclaimed champions.

Kindness has also been

promoted across the term, and our Kindness Trees, exhibiting pledges of kindness, brightened up the Middle School area.

Over the last couple of weeks, the classrooms have been exceptionally decorated ready for Christmas, creating excitement for the upcoming break.

All pupils should be very proud of what they have achieved and I look forward to seeing what the Spring Term brings!

**Miss Cockburn**  
**Head of Middle School**



# Senior School

**It has been a busy but productive half of term for our Senior School students.**

Despite the challenges of COVID and the government's advice for Year 11 students to sit assessments in case of possible 'TAGs' this summer, our students have ploughed on admirably.

Each Senior School year group had a very positive Parents'

Evening, where it was great to hear about how much hard work is going on. They have also had sports fixtures, lots of activities, vaccinations, Christmas festivities, and lots more besides.

They will no doubt be looking forward to a good, well-earned rest over Christmas.

**Miss Berry**  
**Head of Senior School**





# Sixth Form

**It has been a busy term for the Sixth Form; not only have we been building up toward mocks in January, but we also had to factor in TAGs in December too!**

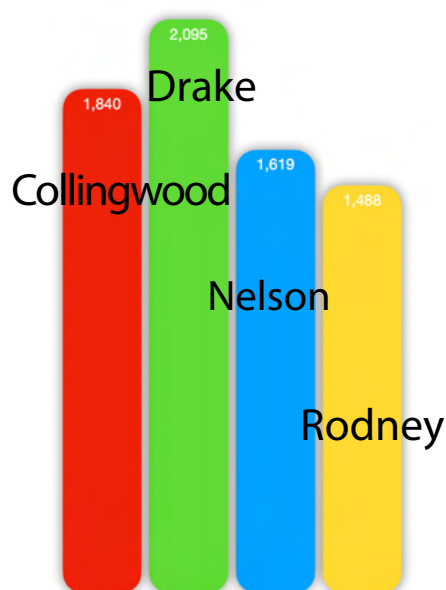
To that end, our Year 13s have often been found studying away, quite rightly, in the Study Room. Looking back on the whole term, there's a lot to reflect on; we kicked things off with raft building at Oakerwood, re-opened Lucton Express, continued our Sixth Form Assemblies, decorated the Common and Study Rooms with festive decorations, and made plans for the Sixth Form Dinner. Although we had to postpone several events, we are looking forward to them now after mocks. With UCAS

applications now made by our Year 13s, we are delighted to hear that Alex R received a fantastic unconditional offer from Tampa Bay in the USA, whilst we have had two students - Amelia-Sky and Matthew - both prepare for interviews with Oxford University, to study History and Medicine respectively. These are all huge achievements, and no matter the outcome, we are very proud of them all. It is always a pleasure to see the looks on students' faces as offers roll in; just reward for their hard work so far. A good term, and we look forward to hitting the ground running in January.

**Mr Wolstenholme**  
**Head of Sixth Form**



## Whole School House Merit



\*Numbers accurate 10th December 2021

# CCF

## Army

**Leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible - Colin Powell.**

Over a couple of Friday afternoons and the first weekend in December, Lucton School CCF ran their fourth annual Leadership Cadre, where 14 cadets were put through their paces, both mentally and physically.

A pre-cadre ran the week prior, in order to give the cadets a heads up with what would be required of them, and to teach a few practical lessons on how to use cantilevers and counter balances, to aid their bridge building skills.

Saturday was spent in the classroom dealing with styles of leadership, the general mechanics of how command tasks should run and qualities of a leader. The students also had to give a 2-minute brief on themselves and a 3-minute brief on an inspirational person of their choosing.

They were then let out to complete the obstacle course that had been set up around the School Grounds. This was in preparation for the next day when they would run it with a stretcher, rifles and helmets.

Each cadet took it in turns



to command throughout the weekend in a series of tasks, including bridge building, recovering equipment from an island surrounded with lava and herding sheep into the correct pens. They were also taught how to run correctly with a stretcher so the casualty does not get thrown off at the first obstacle. Once competent' they ran the stretcher race, which is designed to test their leadership and stamina under induced pressure. Although the teams were low on numbers compared to other years they both did exceptionally well to keep going and get the casualty to the first aid point in the nick of time.

The finale was a quick dip in the pool. This started with confidence building, swimming in clothing, then

carrying weapons and finally building a raft to rescue (another) casualty from across a crocodile infested river. All cadets performed outstandingly throughout and judging by the smiles thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done to all cadets!

Best Effort went to Scarlet P, Best Team Player George, with the Top Student being Lois. Once all certificates were handed out it was time for promotions – from Cadet to Cadet Lance Corporal were – Scarlett, Daisy, Evie, Elena and George. The Contingent Commander and I would also like to thank the other CCF Staff and guest speaker who gave up their free time to assist with the cadre.

**Major C Derrigan**  
**Contingent Commander**

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# RAF

**On the morning of Saturday 23rd October, 12 bleary eyed students met in the dark, to travel to RAF Tern Hill, near Oswestry.**

On arrival, the cadets were put through glider emergency procedures, before heading out to the airfield to see the Viking gliders that they would be getting airborne in. Cdt Wilks was the first to strap into her emergency parachute and prepare for winch launch. She then demonstrated beautifully how calmly an emergency is handled when the winch cable broke at around 500 ft and the instructor pilot brought the glider safely back for a normal landing. As Cdt Wilks had not been able to experience the usual flight, she was then taken up again for 2 further winch launches! The rest of the cadets took it in turn to get two launches in each, even FS Stevens who had come along to help was allowed a turn; her pilot trying for a winch altitude record, this time snapping the cable at 1,400ft. Cdt Gatting, J Darwood, Chandra, Wilks, Bulgakova and Sgt Taylor-Woodward qualified for their Blue Gliding Wings, whilst LCpl Cooper-Wright, Lewis, Wenczek and FS Stevens qualified for their Bronze Gliding Wings.

For the rest of the half term, the Section have been working towards the RAF Squadron Trophy Competition which was held at RAF Cosford on 21st



November. The team had been working hard on their drill, brushing up on their aircraft recognition and RAF general knowledge and revising their First Aid and Marksmanship procedures.

On Saturday 20th, the team gathered for a final practice session and the drill sequence improved yet again ready for the competition the following day. On Sunday, 13 teams gathered and there was stiff competition. The team put in a sterling effort, achieving mid-field for most disciplines, which was fantastic for their first competition and after such a disrupted year. Also, the students must be commended for preparing and running their own

sections of the Team: Sgt Taylor-Woodward headed the Marksman team of FS Stevens, Cpl Millhouse and Cdt Stevens; Cpl Darwood ran the First Aid team of LCpls Cooper-Wright, Lewis Wenczek and Cdt Coleman; Cpl Aston ran the Recce team of LCpl Price, Cdts Darwood, Wilks and Chandra.

Finally, congratulations to FS Stevens for managing the entire team and pulling together extra practices. Next year, leadership of the team hands over and the RAF Section will need rising stars to take the team to the next level.

**Squadron Leader (retd),  
Deborah House**

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# Boarding

**Well, another half term has come and gone in the blink of an eye, and what a busy and jam-packed one it has been!**

We've had some fantastic weekends this half term, starting with a lovely bonfire and firework display on The Pleasance, to which many of our Friends Friday guests were invited. It was a really lovely evening, and such a shame that that was our last Friends Friday weekend this half term. We are really looking forward to opening our doors again on the weekends in the New Year, if Covid restrictions allow. This half term we have also had trips to the cinema, arts and crafts, shopping extravaganzas and chocolate overload at Cadbury World. This week saw the end of term, and though restrictions mean than many social opportunities around school have been cancelled, we were able to go ahead with our formal end



of term Boarders' Dinner. It is always such a special occasion to see the dining hall looking spectacular decked out in fairy lights, and all of our boarders so smart; it really was a magical end to a busy term.

Finally, we are sorry to say goodbye to two of our Spanish students this week, Pablo and Carmen; we have so enjoyed

you staying with us for the term! We also say farewell to Mr Thomas, our Graduate Assistant, who has been such a help in boarding, and wish you well in your next adventure!

I hope that you have a restful Christmas; see you in January.

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

## Maths Success

**Congratulations to three of our Sixth Formers who had success at the UKMT challenge in November.**

Year 12 students Hershel and Maureen (pictured) and Dmitry achieved certificates in the Senior UK Mathematics Trust challenge in November. Dmitry narrowly missed out on Gold, whilst both Hershel and Maureen gained a Bronze.





# Sport



**As the end of term was accompanied by Storm Barra's cold, north westerly winds, driving rain and sleet, scheduled sporting activities were replaced with enthusiastic intra-school events.**

After a short run, the Middle School girls honed their lacrosse skills, the Senior School girls played a very competitive netball tournament, with the Sixth Form girls enjoying a dance session. The boys rotated between rugby, football and running and it was encouraging to see leadership, coaching and umpiring skills being developed by Faith on the netball court and Jack on

the football field.

This more light-hearted end to the term was the culmination of a several weeks of competitive sport. There is no greater accolade than that of being selected to represent the school at the highest level, which Charlotte and Samraaj did successfully, when selected to swim for the West Midlands ISA swimming team at the ISA National Championships at the Olympic Pool on 28th Nov. Charlotte finished 7th in the Y4 individual 50m freestyle, whilst both swam in and finished fourth in their respective age group 4 x 50m freestyle relay teams.

The boys have been busy working on rugby skills, with the U18s growing in stature and confidence, with a narrow loss at Alcester Grammar and a solid win against Bedstone, a great team performance all round. The U15s gained a comprehensive win against Wrekin as debutante Oscar displayed great skill when scoring many tries, whilst the U13s gained much experience when playing Abberley and Moor Park. The U18s finished the term with an excellent 3-3 draw against Hereford and Ludlow College.

The Middle School girls have worked hard to improve basic hockey skills and although

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some matches have been challenging, they excelled at the Herefordshire U13 'friendly' hockey tournament, finishing 2nd, having won against HCS, Aylestone and Whitecross and drawn with St Mary's. There was superb goal keeping from Hedda and attacking play from Daisy and Emily-Grace. Good progress on the lacrosse pitch has boosted confidence when playing tough matches against Prestfelde and Packwood Haugh. The U13 team enjoyed success at Prestfelde winning 5-3, with the B team drawing 2-2, with some excellent goal keeping by Jess. They followed this with a feisty winning display against Packwood U13 B team.

Good victories against Shrewsbury (1-0) and Whitecross (3-0) for a rapidly improving U15 hockey team boosted confidence, with strong defensive performances by Fremah, Ava, Penny and Lois, midfield play by Scarlett B and attacking play by Nahia and Carmen, who, despite having not played hockey until September, proved to be our best goal scorers! Determination was the name of the game for this age group, when playing netball against Bedstone, with the U15 (won 23-14) and U14 (won 24-7) netball teams displaying skill and tenacity.

The U18 and U16 netball teams enjoyed a successful trip to Alcester Grammar School with a superb display of team leadership from Faith



as she steered her team to a well-deserved 10-10 draw, attracting the attention of their coach, who thought she played elite level netball. Superb shooting from Connie and Sophie and sharp interceptions by Jess in the first quarter, saw us take a commanding early lead for a comfortable 35-8 win. The U18s' mettle was tested at the U18 Herefordshire County Netball Tournament. With a tall, athletic HSFC team to contend with in the first match, we were

always on the back foot in the first half. Although we did rally and find some flow in the second half, we were always challenged. Fortunately, this sharpened our skill set, so when playing HCS in the second game, we stepped up and took an early lead and although the game ebbed and flowed, a 6-4 loss was a good result as we started to settle and make those all-important attacking drives. Great enthusiasm by all is evident on the badminton

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courts, with many pupils enjoying matches at Alcester and at home against Kingstone. Although technically 'friendly' matches, some are fiercely contested, as Joel and Tristan proved to be an invincible duo, with Hamish showing a very competitive streak and Bella, Evie, Georgina and Vasilisa growing in confidence with every match.

The Lucton Park Run, an inter-form event to encourage mass participation, ran for the second year. Nathan (1st Y 11) proved to be the fastest in the school, with Annabel (1st Y8 girl) and Josh (1st Y8 boy) not far behind and an impressive run from Thomas (1st Y6). Great team work helped 11G to victory and the combined

efforts of podium finishers Grant (1st Y10 boy) and Fremah (1st Y10 girl) helped 10R's cause. With Scarlett B (1st Y9 girl) and Carmen (2nd, a whisker behind), 9R were convincing winners.

Meanwhile, the Prep School have been busy working on the development of basic hockey and rugby skills, learning how to work as a team by using space to move the ball from defence to attack in small sided games. All pupils have worked hard to improve fitness, with Edwin, Isaac, Jacob, Jake, Jackson, Holly, Henley, Haydn, Elodie, Solomon, Grace, Miles, Charlotte and Amelia constantly impressing with their consistent improvement

over the term.

So, despite the many and varied challenges that constantly cropped up, great progress has been made by all.

**Mrs Connop**  
**Director of Sport**

