

Lucton News

PREP SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SENIOR SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM
CCF
BOARDING
EQUESTRIAN
SPORT

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Issue 37



From the Head



It hardly seems possible that we are already at half-term; so much has happened over the last few weeks that time has just flown by.

It has been wonderful to be able to hold some big events again after all of the restrictions of Covid. The Year 11 and Sixth Form Dinner was a particular highlight and a much-needed release for students after all of their mock exams, while our Prep School students have enjoyed events like Christingle and a trip to Hereford Racecourse, where our Year 4 and 5 students even ended up on Sky TV.

Our students have also enjoyed the usual array of sports fixtures (and victories!); they have performed in LAMDA exams and the Middle & Senior School Concert; they have created businesses as part of

the Middle School Enterprise Showcase; they have chosen A Level options after the Sixth Form Taster Day; and I trust that they have managed to fit in some academic work somewhere along the way too.

It has also been our first half of term under new Governance and we are looking forward to working with the Alpha Schools Group over the next few months to continue moving the school forward. We have put together an exciting School Development Plan that we plan to share with parents as soon as Governors have had a chance to review it and give their input.

There is a lot to look forward to in the next half of term. The first week back features the highly anticipated Senior School Play, 'Shakers & Bouncers', and the events

keep coming thick and fast after that: sports fixtures and tournaments, swimming galas, trips away, CCF training days, Hereford Festival performances, an Art Exhibition and Portrait Competition, the Prep School Book Bingo Challenge, the Middle School Spelling Bee and Enterprise Showcase, and we even have House Pancake Races – I'm looking forward to finding out exactly what those are.

In the meantime, I hope that you all have a great half-term and that our students enjoy a rest amidst this whirlwind of a term.

Mr Tyler
Headmaster

Prep School



It is quite incredible to think that we have already reached half term. As ever, it has been a very busy six weeks full of learning and fun.

As well as the Reading 'Riting and 'Rithmetic, science, music, art, drama, sport etc, we have been making, baking, building, creating, investigating, laughing, inventing, visiting, thinking and even having some quiet moments.

In our first full week back, the Prep School contended with some awful weather whilst running around our cross-

country route. Open the Book also returned, acting out tales from the Bible- in this case an apt Noah's Ark. Meanwhile, we discovered that there is actually a Winnie-the-Pooh Day (and what better day to celebrate than that).

Year 3J's Friday Assembly was all about Winnie-the Pooh and we discovered that we might well recognise some of the character traits- I am sure we all know an Owl or an Eeyore or even a Tigger. We voted in our Form Captains and House Captains and appointed Anton and Isobel as Head Boy and

Head Girl for the term.



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Week 3 saw us prepare for our annual trip to St Laurence's for Christingle/Candlemas. This year was much more poignant as it was our first visit since January 2020, and many of the children had never been or couldn't remember. It was a lovely service, led by our Chaplain, Reverend Price and with some great pieces of music performed by our choir. Thank you to Mrs Wall for organising and rehearsing and thank you to the parents for supporting.



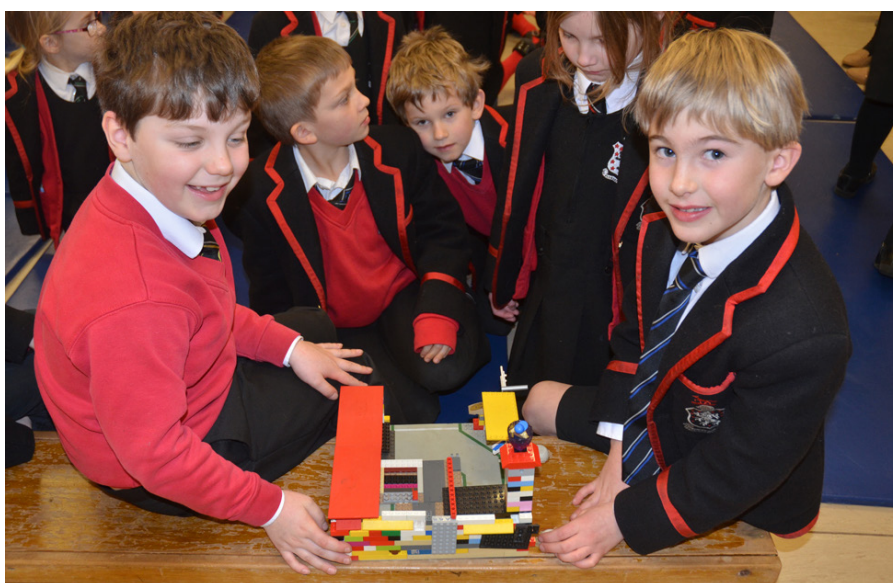
Week 3 was also when several members of the Prep staff tested positive for Covid, making life at the Prep School interesting!

and a Lego Castle building competition which pre-empted Reception's Assembly all about Sleeping Beauty.

Year 2 told us the story of Florence Nightingale and how she introduced the Qualities of Nursing: Courage, Joy, Determination, Cleanliness, Selflessness, Knowledge, Bravery and Kindness. A lovely assembly Year 2.



The virus continued to wreak havoc amongst the staff and children, also putting the spike into a planned swimming gala against Moor Park but thankfully not the football against Bedstone. The latter was great fun especially as this was the first match we have played for 2 years. However, the children took everything in their stride and joined in an afternoon of Fairy Tales and Castles, culminating in a read play, Fairy Tale News



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In week 5, Years 4 and 5 took a fabulous trip to Hereford Race Course on their Racing to Schools programme; not only learning about horses (they see in black, white and orange!) but calculating weights, mean, median and mode as well as handicaps. They also managed to visit the jumps and even made an appearance on Sky Sports!

That same week, the postponed LAMDA exams appeared with a lot of nervous examinees appearing in the Prep School from Year 2 - Year 13! For many, these are their first public exams. Whilst up in the rarefied air of Year 13, these exams count towards university with Gold Distinction worth 30 UCAS points per subject.

Chinese New Year swept in with Year 1 really embracing it; even finding themselves as fireworks, crackers and a Chinese Dragon in a wonderful Prep School Music Assembly that included the entire Prep School. Well done Mrs Wall, the Music Department and especially the children.

We had a super set of Parents' Evenings this week. It is always lovely to share the work we have been doing and where the children are. But, if you would like to see us at other times, please don't hesitate to make an appointment; we're always happy to see you.

And here we are, already



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looking forward to next half term with

1. Pancake race 1st March
2. Techniquest 2nd March – Reception – Year 5

3. World Book Day and Mufti Day 3rd March Reception and Year 1 off to the Courtyard to see the Selfish Giant

4. Hereford Festival w/b 7th March

And that is only the first 2 weeks!

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

Pre-Prep

Year 1 immersed themselves in the Chinese Lunar Festival at the beginning of February.

We learnt about the phases of the moon and how the second new moon after the winter solstice welcomed in Chinese New Year on the 1st February this year, heralding the beginning of the year of the Tiger.

With the wonderful help of Mrs. James; who brought in many interesting things, told us all about the traditions of the Spring Festival and answered our carefully planned questions, we:

- decorated the classroom with our own homemade lanterns, banners, dragons and Chinese drums, all in red and gold; traditionally lucky colours.
- learnt how to write our initials in Chinese characters.
- dressed up and performed the lion dance in our music assembly, scaring away the winter and the bad luck with an enormous roar at the end!

- baked lucky almond biscuits and drank jasmine tea with our New Year Feast of 10, different, lucky Chinese foods; including long noodles that predict a long life and sticky rice moon balls that help you and your friends and family 'stick together'!

- opened our red envelopes of money!

- and performed a puppet show of The Great Race story that started Chinese New Year 3,000 years ago.

We ended this ancient 15-day festival with our own lantern parade as we went home for half term and some mini fireworks to scare away the Nian!

'Kung Hei Fat Choi' (Happy New Year and Prosperity) to everyone!

Mrs Chapman



Middle School

This half term Middle School have had a busy and jam-packed schedule; they have had sports fixtures, the Faraday Science Challenge, LAMDA exams, a music concert and, of course, their timetabled academic lessons!

In Year 6, topics such as the Polar Regions, the murder of Thomas Becket, healthy living and an introduction to Latin have been covered. Year 7 has been learning about Elizabeth I's successes, human reproduction from puberty to birth and have also been improving their Latin skills.

Year 8 has been learning about Slavery, from its beginning

to its abolition, hand signals in CCF, weather and climate in Europe for Geography and created some fantastic ecosystem PowerPoints in Biology; I think half term is most certainly deserved.

In the last week before half term, we explored Safer Internet Day, with a focus all week on understanding how to be safe online, especially when gaming. We have been making break times more fun, by adding equipment such as skipping ropes, and using the tennis courts to play football whenever possible.

I am hoping to continue to add to our collection of equipment

as the year continues. Next half term, we have a number of events to look forward to: the Oaker Wood low ropes challenge afternoon, House Pancake Races, World Book Day Mufti Day, Hereford Festival, Red Nose Day and the Middle School Enterprise Project Showcase event.

With an exciting rest of the Spring Term ahead, I hope you have a relaxing half term and enjoy the lengthening days and, hopefully, warmer weather!

Miss Cockburn
Head of Middle School

Music

We have had a good half term in the Music Department. Sadly, our first event of the year was cancelled, but Orchestral Day will be rescheduled for the Summer Term. The next event was the Prep School Christingle service, which went extremely well. Many thanks to those involved.


In the past two weeks we have had the Prep School music assembly followed by the Middle and Senior school concert. These could be described as 'play and listen' concerts, where the atmosphere is very relaxed and

gives everybody an opportunity of playing at whatever standard.

It was lovely to use the spinet (below), that was donated by the friends, for the first time in



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concert. It was also great to welcome Miss Grant, our new strings teacher. Miss Grant is a first study baroque viola player as well as being a violinist, cellist, organist, pianist, harpist and saxophone - for fun! She has been an immediate success and if you would like your child to have a taster lesson with her, please do ask.

Well done to all the individual performers who have

performed this term. It has also been lovely to have so much ensemble music during this term. Being part of an orchestra or choir is an experience unlike many others and really makes the music fun and brings it to life.

Looking forward, just before Easter, we are singing choral evensong in Hereford Cathedral on the 30th of March at 5.30 and we are extremely

lucky to have the opportunity. Please do come and have a listen.

Mr Wall
Director of Music

Senior School

The Senior School have had another busy term, which started off with a focused few weeks of exams for Year 10 and Year 11.

For those who put in the hard work over the holidays they were rewarded with some positive results and many have now identified the areas they can work on in preparation of their final exams.

Looking to the future, Year 11 had a good day with their Sixth Form Taster Day; visiting different lessons and being taught Sixth Form style lessons before attending the Sixth Form Dinner in the evening. A lovely time was had by all. They have also been busy working on their college applications and we wish them all the best in these.

We have continued working on various themes in form time, most recently taking part in the whole school awareness of Safer Internet Day, looking at online behaviour.

Outside of the classroom the pupils continue to flourish in a variety of passions, from sports to music and drama, with several pupils completing their LAMDA exams. There have been some excellent performances on the sports field and in the recent school concert, so many talented pupils!

Year 9 have been thinking about their future careers and have started to think about their GCSE option choices, which is very exciting for them! Year 9 also had the pleasure of watching the Year 11 drama exam to inspire them as to what they can achieve- well

done Year 11 on some great performances. With this in mind we are looking forward to the Senior School double bill of Bouncers and Shakers which will be performed in the first week back after half term. It would be lovely to see you there to support them after all the hard work they have put in, even attending weekend rehearsals!

We hope that all of the Senior School have a restful break but urge Year 11 to organise their revision so they are prepared for their final few weeks of lessons. We encourage Year 9 to continue their conversations about their Option choices and Year 10 should use this week to consolidate what they have learned this term and from their exams to make sure they are coming back to school refreshed and ready to learn.

Mrs Berry
Head of Senior School

Sixth Form



With mock and interim exams now behind us, the Sixth Formers are approaching half term armed with advice and guidance on their revision ahead.

There has certainly been a lot of studying going on both in the Study Room and Common Room, and we are now at the beginning of the final lap for Year 13's.

Outside of the classroom, the Taster Day and Sixth Form Dinner (above) went down a treat and - although I unfortunately had to miss out owing to Covid - I am told much

fun was had. Looking over the photos, it seems everyone enjoyed the occasion, and it was a lovely way to give a taste of what life is like in the Sixth Form to those joining us next year.

Our Tuesday assemblies have also been ticking along nicely, with the Senior Prefects taking it in turns to deliver talks on the broad theme of History and the past, which is also our theme for the Sixth Form Magazine this term. Indeed, between this and the Senior School Play, many of our Sixth Formers have found that time management is of increasing

importance the further up the school they go.

With the UCAS convention, EPQ presentations and our traditional Easter egg hunt ahead, we can say it has been a good half term, but much still to look forward to.

Mr Wolstenholme
Head of Sixth Form

CCF



The St. John Ambulance Youth First Aid Course, is the cornerstone to developing sound knowledge in this area.

During January, the annual Youth First Aid Course was held at Lucton School. This is a nationally recognised qualification delivered in accordance with the standards set by St. John Ambulance. Year 10 were all invited to attend as well as some of those who do First Aid for activities.

Friday afternoon was taken

up with the theory side and a small amount of practical. The learning was then completed on Saturday morning in readiness for the scenario based testing and a written test.

The scenarios included a broken leg, a heart attack, anaphylactic shock and a bleed. The casualty scenarios were made possible by the willing volunteers: Amy-Rose, Maggie, Oattie and Jessica. All scenarios were met with some degree of consternation, but on the whole the casualties were

dealt with effectively and lived to fight another day.

A large congratulations to the Cadets that passed the course. A special mention also goes out to Daisy and Georgia from Year 8, who attended and passed with flying colours.

WO2 Rich Brown, SSI, Lucton School

Boarding

And just like that, another half term has flown by.

This week has, as usual, been a busy one in the boarding houses and whilst the Houseparents may be tired and ready for a break, the students still have boundless energy. Saturday saw a very popular trip to Flip Out trampoline adventure park with Mr Rogers and Mrs Wolstenholme, which was lots of fun!

Some of the older students chose, instead, to go into Hereford city centre for lunch and to do some shopping before returning to school for dinner and a leisurely swim. On Sunday, more of our students were up and about early for the

Cross Country, while the rest of us enjoyed a rather more relaxing late brunch and a very chilled out afternoon.

In other news, we are thrilled that, after half term, we are able to open up our popular "Friend Fridays" once again to welcome our Day students wishing to stay over on Friday night and even come on the Saturday trip if they wish to.

We have some fantastic trips and activities lined up for next half term (though with venues still being affected by Covid restrictions, these are of course provisional), including Stratford-upon-Avon, Ninja Warrior, The Black Country Museum, Laser Tag and a

school-based arts and crafts session.

If your child would like to join us, please do email boardinghouse@luctonschool.org to book a place. As many of the more popular venues still have restrictions on numbers, I would kindly request that places are booked as soon as possible, and at least two weeks in advance to avoid disappointment.

I wish you all a relaxing half term break with your families and look forward to seeing the boarders return from 3pm on Sunday 20th February.

Mrs Webb-Rogers
Head of Boarding

Equestrian

What a fabulous half term it has been for Lucton School Equestrian Team and Pony Club members.

With two Pony Club rallies and two Pony Club Triathlons so far this year, the students are having plenty of opportunities to enhance their competitive skills, with some brilliant team and individual successes.

Lucton Equestrian Team

was represented well on Sunday 16th January at the first Pony Club Rally of 2022, with two teams entered into the NSEA Inter-County Show Jumping competition at Kings Equestrian Centre in Bromyard.

Two of the four teams were hugely successful coming 2nd in the 70cm class (Oliver, Sophie, Freya and Charlotte) and 3rd in the 80cm class (Sophie, Freya, Oliver and



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Amelia). This was a first for many of the students and the team training at school has certainly paid off. Amelia was the highest placed Herefordshire rider in the 90cm county cup qualifier and goes forward to represent Lucton and Herefordshire at Hickstead in May.

The team had a fantastic but cold day at Monmouth on Sunday 23rd January at the Area 10 – Pony Club Triathlon (Qualifier). Unfortunately, Miss Coates got held up and so didn't get there - the joy of working with livestock! However, Mrs Rogers led the charge of very keen children!

We had lost a couple to Covid but we went out strongly! Both teams were placed, with



Cordelia, Niamh, Bea and Rosabelle coming 8th, and Connie, Hillie and Henry 6th! Connie placed overall 5th and 2nd girl, with Henry 9th boy! What a fantastic result for all.

Meanwhile, Emily-Grace went as an individual in the junior

girls. She had an excellent run and ended up overall 18th! It was the first time she had shot at a competition but did well!

Ms Coates
Equestrian Manager

Sport

An action packed first half of the Spring Term began with that most traditional of winter sports: cross-country running.

As the sun shone and the House Cross-Country got under way, the beginning of a successful season was marked by Annabel's emphatic and dominant display, when winning the Middle School girls' race and recording the second fastest time of the day. With strong, determined displays of running at the

Hereford and Worcester County Championships (10th Junior Girls') and the Regional ISA Championships at Bedstone (4th Yr 8/9 girls'), Annabel has been selected to represent the Midlands at the ISA National Championships and is a reserve for the English Schools Championships, as is Daniel for the Senior Boys.

Lucton were well represented at both qualifying events, with Edwin qualifying for the ISA Nationals, when finishing 5th in

the Yr 4 boys race.

The boys have been busy honing football and rugby 7's skills and just before half term, a thrilling U18 match at home against Bedstone, showed just how much progress has been made. With Ellis and Jack running amok to score many tries, solid play by Reubens and Harri and a brilliant try denying tackle by Hershel, we were always in control.

The U15's had a brilliant 9

goal rout at CCB with Zac P scoring 7 and Gonzalo 2, whilst the U18's were dominant at Bedstone (5-1) and Shrewsbury (4-3) with Herbie and Ellis showing tenacity and verve in attack. All teams have learnt a lot, especially the U13's who have come up against some tall opposition.

There has been plenty of action on the netball court, as the U16's and U14's trained with greater intensity to raise their game for the West Midlands Regional Netball Tournament. After a successful trip to Tettenhall, the U16's learnt a lot at Wrekin; were dominant in some sections of the game at CCB; and held their own at the West Midlands, playing against teams with vast experience of playing at Club and Regional level.

The U14's impressed with their positive attitude, playing with speed and skill, posting

great wins against Bedstone and CCB. Undaunted by the challenge, they also held their own at the West Midlands Tournament, improving throughout, in what was a great learning experience.

Not to be outdone, the U15's, have shown skill and flair in every section of the court, with comfortable wins against Bedstone, Whitecross, CCB and Tenbury and the U13's are growing in confidence, using space and pace in attacking play, making the most of goal scoring opportunities, with positive results against CCB, Abberley and Moor Park. Lacrosse is still on the agenda, with the Seniors preparing for the Small Schools Tournament at Rendcomb in March, whilst the U13's and U12s had a successful trip to Prestfelde, with a hard fought 7-3 loss for the U13's and a close win for the U12's.

Badminton is a growing sport, enjoyed by many, who have learnt a lot when playing matches against Bedstone, CCB and Kingstone, the latter being won 16 games to 8.

Mrs Connop
Director of Sport

