

Lucton News

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From the Head



This half of term has been dominated by exam preparation for many of our older students, but it has been remarkable to see how much else has been going on alongside this.

Not only have our students continued to stretch themselves academically, with the Year 13 EPQ presentations standing out as particularly impressive, but they have also enjoyed a range of extra-curricular successes. As I write this, I have just received an email from Mrs Connop about last week's ISA Midlands Senior Regional Athletics Championships, in which she has commended Henry (2nd in long jump), Tristan (3rd in discus), Lara (2nd in 800m) and Annabel (2nd in 1500m) for outstanding performances. Hopefully, our Junior team will have enjoyed similar success by the time you read this.

While many other students have also excelled themselves on the sports fields this term, I have been just as impressed with their musical exploits. We had a well-attended Orchestral Day just last week, and it was brilliant to follow that up at the weekend with ABRSM Exams in which all 50 candidates passed. Even Mr Wall has got in on the act, reaching the final five of the Hereford Cathedral Composition Competition with his 'Prayer of Thanksgiving'.

We have also enjoyed welcoming a number of visitors to Lucton. Our Bank Holiday Open Day was a popular affair at the start of term, with our students representing the school superbly, and we also very much enjoyed the company of the 19 Thai students who visited us for three weeks and contributed so much to our community.

We have also visited plenty of places ourselves. Our Prep

School students have enjoyed a variety of trips, from Roman towns to botanical gardens, though the highlight was surely the week of adventure that our Year 5 students experienced at Red Ridge. Year 8 had a valuable Maths trip to Worcester Race Course, and many of them will also be among the Middle School students who are looking forward to their trip to France after half-term.

Finally, I end this as always with some guilt about not being able to mention all of the impressive things that our students have been involved in and accomplished this term, but also with a real sense of excitement about the next half of term. With plays, Sports Days, Jubilee celebrations, Speech Day, and exams (perhaps not quite so fun), there is lots to look forward to.

Mr Tyler
Headmaster

Prep School

I have decided, I think, that May is my favourite month.

All the trees are leafing and the different shades of green that you can see from the playground are phenomenal. There are the different blossoms and then there is the return of the house martins, a sure sign that summer is really here. From our perspective, May heralds the return of 'The Dens'. This is when we go onto the main field, (which is wonderful itself) and then go into the hedge at the back, where intricate dens and burrows are built and secured. Hugely imaginative games are played, quite a lot involving 'money' in the form of stones. Of course, half of the fun is getting extremely dusty – as you may well have realised.

May also heralds the exam season for the Senior School and it is when the Year 11's traditionally come over and play football with the younger ones. We are always really impressed with how the older students are with the younger ones and the football games are great fun. I hope that it relieves their exam stress.

Continuing with traditions, Year 5 have been going to Red Ridge for over 10 years. It has become an institutional memory with various activities – pot-holing, abseiling, raft building – compared between

the different ages "Do you remember...?" I've asked Year 13 whether they remember the trip and the answer is a resounding 'Yes'! In fact my children still talk about it, and one is now 21!

Although this is a really short half term, we try and pack in as much as possible. Year 4 kick started our Friday Assemblies with Superhero Day and how everyone can be a superhero in helping the environment and each other. A really good reminder of what we should do to look after ourselves and our friends. Open The Book returned with their take on Bible stories, acting them out, ably abetted by the children, and each assembly finishes off with a rousing song with actions!

Into the second week, with a very busy Open Day along with the opening of our Spring Book Fair. Year 1 began the latter with a journey into the value of books by performing two poems: 'Books' by Jane Baskwill and 'Open the Book' by Helen More. We also showcased the excellent masks that the children made; likenesses of their favourite literary character. The Book Fair itself was well attended by children (and parents) from across the school. You spent a total of £718, which means that we get to spend £359 with Scholastic. Thank you so much. Year 2 took over the reins the

following week – Year 5 were away so we swapped – with the Seaside as their theme. Telling us facts about our history with the beach and then regaling us with a 'production' of the Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. Meanwhile the production itself – Shakespeare Rocks – has really taken over; the stage is in place, the tunes are being sung and the Globe is being made. Don't worry, we are fitting in all the learning as well!

With Year 5 back we could hold the Music Assembly. It was a showcase of talent and everyone performed something; be it a class performance, an instrument or the choir. Thanks go to the Music Department.

And then the Prep school – barring Reception and Year 1 – thought they might all go out on a trip; Years 2 and 3 to Birmingham's Botanical Gardens and the rest to the Roman City at Wroxeter.

Oh, and we go to to the ISA Junior Athletics before finishing off the half with a lovely Ballet Assembly performing classics from Road Dahl.

Phew! That was a jam-packed half and we have loads next half as well. Best get some rest in ready to go.

Mr Bicker-Caarten
Head of Prep School

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Nursery

Nursery children have been exploring the outdoors, splashing in puddles and blowing feathers. With flour and sand, they have been learning to tip and scoop.

Transition have been exploring water beads, and even have their own frogspawn that they are watching turn into frogs! They are looking at letter and number recognition, pictured decorating the letter H.



Pre-Prep

Year R started this term with a walk in the woods around Croft, taking in a sea of stunning bluebells, then dived right into their Water topic!

Prep

On Wednesday 25th May, Years 2 and 3 had a wonderful day out to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. We explored the greenhouses and drew sketches of the plants we found the most interesting. During a burst of sunshine, the children had lots of fun on the playground. We finished the day with a rainforest workshop where we learnt about different plants and seeds, and even got to hold some of the animals!

Years 4 and 5 had a fantastic trip to the Roman City at Wroxeter on Wednesday 25th May. They spent the morning examining the ruins of the city and walked through the basilica, the baths, the market and the forum. It was fascinating to explore this amazing period of history from 1800 years ago. They spent the afternoon making their own Roman coins and explored a Roman villa to get a good understanding of what life was like in Roman Britain.



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Red Ridge Residential

For over 10 years, Lucton students have been visiting Red Ridge Outdoor Centre, for their end of Prep School Residential.

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Red Ridge, spending the week in the Welsh countryside. It was a jam packed week full of activities, expertly led by Red Ridge Staff, and supported by Mrs Leonard and Miss Dyer. Children enjoyed rock climbing, canoeing, caving, high ropes and so much more. All the children got stuck in and had a good go at everything, even though some were a bit nervous!

It was great to see some children conquer their fears and work together as a team! In the little free time that there was, children enjoyed a kick about outside and took part in the disco on the last night. On the way back to school, we all enjoyed an ice cream to finish off the week! A wonderful week had by all!

Mrs Leonard and Miss Dyer
Prep School Teachers



Middle School

It has been a fast-paced start to the term and it is astounding to think that the first half of the Summer Term has already passed.

Year 8 had a fantastic Racing to School Trip at Worcester Racecourse, experiencing first hand the racing scene, while also brushing up on their Maths skills. The Orchestral Day saw many of the Middle School pupils participate in a day of some excellent music.

There have been Athletics Championships and weekly sports matches in rounders and cricket allowing our pupils to take part in competitive matches; just like our pre-covid days! The Middle School play rehearsals have also been in full swing and, with a large number of our pupils taking part, we are all very excited to see the final production at the end of term.

Academically, there has been a big push on consolidation and revision for our pupils this half term, to ready them for their exams. However, some new topics have been covered; Year 6 have been investigating the lead up to the Peasants' Revolt in Medieval England; been on an orchestral safari in Music; and been making gnomes, mallets and tent pegs in Forest School, alongside Year 7. In Art, they have been working on a print project inspired by 'Under the Ocean'. In CDT, they have finished off their very

impressive totem poles!

Year 7 have been developing their graph and fieldwork skills, leading up to a trip next half term to put these skills into practice; studied folk music in Music and they have learned about other cultures by drawing artefacts from around the world in Art. These have ranged from carnival masks from Venice, to vivid Guatemalan embroidery, to Cow Poo paintings from Rwanda!

Year 8 have been delving into the lives of the Suffragettes and have been studying reggae music in Music lessons. In Art, they have been working on a project all about their own interests. They have created ink self-portraits of themselves inspired by the Pop Artist Andy Warhol. Whilst creating their images they discovered that an Andy Warhol image of Marilyn Monroe sold this month for the largest amount ever at a US auction! A cool 195 million dollars!

Across the Middle School, in MFL, pupils have been preparing for one to one, interview-style speaking exams. This is a great opportunity to put their French and Spanish knowledge into a conversation scenario. When learning a language, speaking is a very important skill!

On a slightly more serious note, the last week of term has seen our pupils in Year 7 and 8 sit their end of year exams. Year 6 also had exams in their core subjects. I have been impressed with the overall maturity and effort shown in these. All the pupils have tried their best and they should be very proud of themselves. I would like to wish you all a relaxing half term and I hope the weather is sunny and dry for you!

See you all in June for an action-packed and entertaining last half of term.

Miss Cockburn
Head of Middle School



Totem Poles created by Clay, Isabel, Sverre, Jojo, Elsa & Emelia

Senior School

The focus for this half term has definitely been exam preparation and revision, especially for our Year 11 students.

But, this has not detracted from our busy extra-curricular programme. There have been our usual sports programme, horse-riding and pony clubs and CCF, as well as Music, including a very successful Orchestral Day.

In many ways, it is a sad day for us today but one also filled with excitement and hope for the future, as it is the last day that our Year 11's will be in

school as a whole year group as they will be on study leave after half term. They will, no doubt, be using the half term break to do revision but I would urge them to find some time to relax, too.

Year 9 and 10 are finishing their internal exams today and are very much looking forward to a relaxing half term. I am sure they will come back refreshed, ready for the last push.

Have a happy half term with friends and family!

Mrs Niblett
Head of Senior School



Sixth Form

The term has zipped by again, with exams being the main focus for all years.

This year we've gone for a slightly different approach, with students from Year 7 to Year 10 all taking their papers in the Sports Hall. With the carpet laid out, and the desks spaced across it, the Hall looks transformed.

Indeed, the students have been exemplary in both their attitude and application and I'm sure their results will reflect the effort they have put in - certainly when I've been in the Sports Hall, you could hear a pin drop, such are the levels of concentration. At the same time as the internal exams, we've had Year 11 and Year 13 up in the Upper Hall sitting public exams for the first time in two years, and though they are daunting, it has felt good to get back to more normal times.

In between all the exams, there has been the usual sport and extra curricular activities, and even a mufti day.

We had our EPQ presentations this term and it was wonderful to see just how much effort our Sixth Formers had put into their two-year projects. Whether delving into the intricacies of the American financial system, pouring over oil spills in the Niger Delta or casting light on misconceptions of Richard III, it was a pleasure to see how confidently our students presented their projects.

Articles are being written for the Sixth Form Magazine (all back editions are now available on the [website](#)); and we also enjoyed our Alternative Award Ceremonies which included awards such as 'The James Bond Award', 'The Maths and Maths Award', 'The Roger Federer Award' and much more.

It was lovely to hear from the Year 13's at the Assembly as they discussed their plans for the future and the universities they have applied for and are aspiring toward.

Whilst we now bid farewell to our Year 11's and Year 13's as they knuckle down on revision during Study Leave, they know they are welcome to make use of teachers and resources at school too, should they wish. They can certainly reflect on a roller-coaster two years, and these exams give them an opportunity to show just how far they've come.

With a host of events lined up for next term, I'm sure it will be an action-packed time, and I'm looking forward to seeing Sports Day, Prize Giving and the Jubilee Celebration as the weather improves!

Mr Wolstenholme
Head of Sixth Form



Boarding

This half of term has, as usual, been a busy one in the boarding houses.

In addition to 19 visitors from Thailand, who stayed with us for three weeks, we also welcomed three new international students; Michael, Asylay and Colas.

We had lots of fun trips, and managed to visit Chester, Worcester and Hereford, as well as having an action packed day at FlipOut, an afternoon at the cinema, and also a wonderful walk in the Malvern Hills.

With the warm weather and long nights, we have been fortunate enough to spend lots of time outside. We have had evenings full of football matches, tennis games and even a highly competitive table tennis tournament.

At the point of writing this, we are saying 'see you soon' to many of our Boarders who are heading home for the week, but are preparing rooms for our five new students joining us for the final half of term, as well as a group of 30 students from another Alpha School, who will join us for one week. In

the meantime, we are looking forward to spending the half term week with those who are remaining, for a fun packed, albeit chilled-out half term at Lucton.

I wish you all a relaxing half term break with your families and look forward to seeing the boarders return from 3pm on Sunday 5th June.

Mrs Webb-Rogers
Head of Boarding

Thai Visitors

We were delighted to welcome 19 students and 1 teacher from the Patumwan Demonstration School, Bangkok, Thailand.

Joining us between 24th April and 14th May, the Thai group joined in the full timetable with Year 8 and Year 9 classes, as well as experience the full Boarding programme. They were a lovely addition to the school community, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting Lucton students and staff.



Ski Trip

Mid-Saturday afternoon on 2nd April, the Lucton Ski trip commenced the long coach journey to Les Deux Alpes. Travelling overnight through the vast fields of France we eventually arrived at the resort at about 4pm on Sunday, tired but excited.

Sunday night was a fairly relaxed affair. We were fitted with skis, boots and helmets and then had the opportunity to have a look around the Southern French town of Les Deux Alpes that would be our home for the week.

With a mix of experienced and novice skiers, we took to the slopes early on Monday morning. The students were divided into groups and were looked after and guided by the fantastic staff of UCPA while Mr Bicker-Caarten traversed the mountain keeping a watchful eye on all of the groups. After a hot lunch back at the UCPA centre, we enjoyed a full afternoon of skiing. Worn out after a full days skiing, it did not take some of the students long to discover the hot tub and jacuzzi. Aches and pains were eased and an evenings entertainment hosted by the UCPA staff ensued.

Tuesday followed a similar format with skiing in the morning and afternoon and it was impressive to see how much our novice skiers had

improved in just one day. Students who had never skied before were now gliding down slopes and, more importantly, managing to stop at the bottom.

We had Wednesday morning off, and used the opportunity to explore as a group the top of the mountain. We walked to the cable car, the Jandari Express, which carried us three quarters of the way up the mountain, we then took a second cable to reach the Funiculaire, a train that took us to the very top of the mountain. The views were incredible, Mount Blanc could be seen in the distance, and the sun shone very brightly. We took a short walk to the Belvedere des Ecrins viewing platform. This was a metal footbridge that stretched out from the mountain over the void below. The evenings continued to see the staff at UCPA provide a wide variety of entertainment. We enjoyed a quizzes, a games night and a karaoke all hosted by Pierre.

Our last day of skiing on Friday was hampered by the weather and the risk of avalanche closed a number of slopes at the resort. This did give us the opportunity to have a walk around Les Deux Alpes and purchase the necessary gifts and souvenirs. We said our farewells to the resort at 9pm on Friday night and settled into the coach for the journey back to Lucton.

This was without doubt a very successful trip which all of the students, and staff, thoroughly enjoyed. The students behaved themselves impeccably throughout the trip and were complimented by UCPA on how well they conducted themselves, especially on the ski slopes. Les Deux Alpes was a lovely, welcoming resort and everyone will be able to look back at this trip with very fond memories.



Music

What a wonderful half term it has been for Music.

On Monday 16th May, we hosted our third Orchestral Day. Welcoming over 45 students from the local area, the students, and accompanying staff, were treated to a masterclass from five exceptionally talented musicians. James Topp conducted the day, leading the orchestra in our glorious Memorial Hall. Noriko Tsuzaki supported the strings on violin with Laura Galletta on viola. Catherine Handley led the woodwind on flute, with Craig MacDonald on brass.

In addition to that, we have had our busiest session ever for ABRSM exams. In total we had 50 entrants, which added up to 13 hours of exams. This

was a wonderful opportunity for meeting external students and also for our own students to sit exams. Of particular note, I would like to say well done to Year 6. We have never had so many Year 6 sit exams; after such a positive exam session, I am hoping that many will carry on their instruments into Year 7.

Initial cello: Sofia (Pass), Emilia (Merit), Elsa (Merit)

Initial violin: Faith (Pass)
Grade 1 violin: Isobel (Pass), Afia (Pass)

Grade 1 Clarinet: Matilda (Merit), Clay (Distinction)

Grade 1 Trumpet: Miles (Pass), Henley (Pass), Isaac (Pass) Tom (Pass)

Grade 1 Snare Drum: Edwin (Pass)

Grade 2 Piano: Ava (Pass)

Grade 3 Bassoon: Maggie (Distinction)

Grade 5 Piano: Sameer (Pass).

Prep School Music Assembly took place on Friday 20th May, and a very exciting assembly indeed. Every single student from Year R to Year 5 took part. The concert was very exciting and featured music from many different and varied genres of music. We were delighted that Maggie could come and perform a piece on the piano to the younger students. Well done, everybody!

Mr Wall
Director of Music



Equestrian

It has been another great term for Equestrian, with more Pony Club Rallies and a Dressage Competition.

Towards the end of the Easter holidays, we had a fabulous day at our Pony Club rally. With 15 riders from both Lucton School and outside, we enjoyed riding without stirrups, pole work and stable management. All riders passes Bronze Level 2 and 3, with four riders also achieving Level 1 to give them the complete badge.

Vale of Arrow Riding Club hosted their Dressage Competition at Lucton, with a number of students and staff competing. Gwendolin had a great day out on Alfie, placing 1st in the Intro A and 5th in the Prelim 14. Henry also

competed, along with our very own Biology Teacher and DSL, Mrs Goode, who placed 3rd.

Lastly, we said goodbye and good luck to one of our eldest Pony Club members, Louise. Over the years, she has helped teach the younger members at Lucton, and only steps down on her voluntary duties to focus on her A-Level exams. The children will miss her, but they offered her good luck and cheered her on by making her a card and giving her some chocolates. A huge thanks goes to Louise for all her hard work, and we wish her every success in her upcoming exams.

**Ms Coates
Equestrian Manager**



Sport

A busy half term, with lots of activity and success on the games field. At last, after a long absence, athletics matches have returned with many excellent results for Lucton students.

Early in the term, many students excelled at the Leominster District Championships, with Fremah (Shot), Josh (Javelin), Zac (100m/200m/LJ) and Penny (Discus) winning their events. Several students came second including Scarlett B (100m), Myra (LJ and 100m), the Year 10 4x100m relay and Daisy (Discus), and many finishing 3rd or 4th. Seventeen students were selected to represent the District at the Hereford and Worcester County Championships in June.

More success was achieved at the Midlands ISA Regional Athletics Championships, where, against strong opposition, the most outstanding performances were from Henry who placed 2nd in the Year 8/9 Long Jump with a distance of 4m92. Tristan came 3rd in the Year 10/11 Discus with a distance of 20m60. Lara placed 2nd in the Year 7 800m in 2min 55 and Annabel came 2nd in the Year 8/9 1500m in 5 min 32.

The Year 9/10 tennis team had positive start to the season with a comfortable victory in the U15 Hereford and Worcester Tennis League against Kingstone, with Zac, Grant, Gonzalo and Jorge all winning their singles and doubles matches with ease. And on a warm, sunny Saturday, two pairs, Joel and Zac, Lola and Gwen competed at the Hereford and Worcester County Pairs Championships, a positive experience for all with Lola and Gwen, finishing 5th.

As is often the case, British weather and cricket is not compatible and after a close U16 match v Shrewsbury at the start of the season, rain has subsequently stopped play for this team. The U13's have been working hard, with good progress by both girls and boys, as has the U15 girl's team who, when playing their 255 runs. Consistent batting from all and an inspired performance from Rachel (batter of the match) meant we amassed 349 runs.



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Much success has been enjoyed on the rounders field. Enthusiastic attendance at training has seen great progress in all areas of the game, especially with the Year 7 and 8's, whose improved batting and fielding skills were evident when playing a successful home fixture against Weobley. The U18 team is unbeaten, with close wins over Ludlow College and Bedstone. Molly was fielding player of the match in all three games. In the match against Bedstone, in the first innings, Faith (backstop) and Molly (1st) stumped out all but three of the team in quick succession. Hannah, Jess and Molly have impressed when

batting as has Grace with her bowling. Once again, team work was the key ingredient.

The Year 10 girls have also impressed with their focus, team work and work ethic, with all girls contributing successfully when batting and fielding. An early season win against Wigmore set the tone and with Scarlett P leading by example at the Herefordshire U15 County tournament, with a well-placed hit between 1st and the back-hit line to score the winning rounder off the last ball against LHS - this meant we won and went into the final! Throughout the tournament, the backstop, 1st post combination of Myra

and Hannah produced many stumpings, as did the Myra and Daisy (2nd post) combination.

Daisy, Scarlett, Myra and Gwen, were top scorers, with Harriet, Rachel, Elodie, Hannah and Fremah all scoring at least one-half rounder, especially against Bishop's whom we beat 8-4. The final, against HCS was challenging, as they had several big hitters, however, Lucton resilience took over and we fielded positively, took chances to score when we could and although we came second, we were winners in so many ways.

Mrs Connop
Director of Sport

