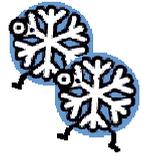




Longsands College Newsletter

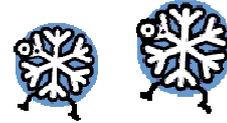


Vol 6

Issue 3

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From the Principal



Dear Parents

This year's Enterprise Week (November 2007) built on everything that had been achieved in the equivalent week last year. The programme of events was aimed at developing students' creativity and understanding of enterprise. It provided many opportunities for practising relevant skills such as problem-solving, financial planning and presentation of ideas. Students' work and conduct throughout the week was exceptional, and I should like to congratulate the three Year 10 students - **Kirsty Inman, Gemma Bleakley and Jenna Lewis** - who took part in the regional finals of the Make Your Mark Competition. A further report on Enterprise Week appears later in the newsletter.

It seems particularly appropriate to take this opportunity to thank students and staff for their hard work and support throughout the term. Our best wishes go to Mrs Alexis Saker, who retired at the end of November after 18 years of service as Administration Supervisor, and other colleagues who are leaving for promotion or other reasons.

Happy Christmas and New Year from the students, staff and governors of Longsands College.

*Robert Whatmough
Principal*

Anti-Bullying Week followed immediately after Enterprise Week. Special assemblies and other activities such as *Blue Wednesday*, drop-in sessions and dramatic performances were organised. Students in Years 7 and 9 also completed an on-line survey as part of the 'cross-locality' approach to the week adopted by schools throughout St Neots and the surrounding villages. We will publish a summary of results in the spring term.

The length of the autumn term usually makes it a test of endurance for students and staff. The second half of the term has been especially difficult for staff as they have sought to support colleagues facing particular difficulty. With his permission, I am able to tell you about one of those colleagues: Graham Clarke, who retired as Vice Principal and has since worked with us in the Mathematics department and elsewhere, is fighting his second battle with cancer. Mr Clarke will not return to Longsands in a teaching capacity. He will, however, maintain his long and distinguished association with the College. (We are happy to forward any cards or messages to him.)

Anti-Bullying

This year, the St Neots Schools Forum is involved in a major Anti-Bullying project, which was launched during the National Anti-Bullying Week (19 – 23 November). Bullying has always been a concern for parents and a worry for children. The project aims to raise awareness of exactly what constitutes bullying, how to recognise it, and how best to support children in a consistent and appropriate manner.

Mrs Binning



LC Sound is the new radio station for Longsands. A podcast is produced by students every

half term, with album reviews, film reviews, school news, school *traffic reports* and music from the school choirs and bands. It is created by a group of Year 10s, who meet on Thursday lunchtimes.

The podcast is available to download off the website, and will be played throughout the school during break and lunchtimes.

The Christmas podcast is available to download off the website at the moment and includes a Top 10 Christmas song countdown, a recording from the school carol group, teachers' Christmas jokes and more.

All comments and suggestions are welcome and are gratefully received; there is a feedback form for you to fill in on the website:

www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

If you would like further information about LC Sound or wish to participate please ask Miss Robson, the Media staff or any of the LC Sound team.

Laura Kane

End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 19 December

Period 1 & 2 as normal	
Break	11 am – 11.20 am
Period 3	11.20 am – 12.10 am
Period 4	12.10 – 12.55 am (including afternoon registration)

Buses have been ordered for 1 pm.

Keeping Us Updated

Please keep the College up to date with address and emergency contact information. Many thanks.

The Admin Team

Anti-bullying Week

Anti-bullying week took place from 19 - 23 November and was a great success. The week was aimed at confirming awareness that bullying is not acceptable. Activities gave students advice about how to prevent or stop it and explained what bullying is. At Longsands, many students participated in activities such as *Blue Wednesday* on 21 November, when students and staff wore the colour blue and gave £1.00 each as a donation for two charities (Child Line and the Anti-bullying Alliance).



The Student Council also set up a stall selling Anti-bullying pin badges, and Key Stage 3 students saw an anti-bullying drama presentation by Snapshot Theatre Group. Drop in sessions were available for students to receive support and advice. We asked one of the main organisers, Mrs Binning, why she thought it was important for students to get involved with these events. She replied, *“The week is aimed at giving students knowledge and awareness of what to do and where to go to get support if you, or someone you know, is getting bullied. It’s also important to realise that bullying doesn’t just happen during anti-bullying week and support is always there for the students whenever they need it.”*

Kirstie Eldridge & Beverley Fletcher

Year 9 students performing role-plays during assembly.

National Anti-Bullying Week

The Anti-Bullying week theme was ‘Bullying in the Wider Community’, with the 2007 slogan ‘Safer Together, Safer Wherever’, reminding us that we all have a role to play in keeping children safe wherever they are. Schools in St Neots are working together towards this common aim.

A variety of events took place during the week; assemblies included a group of Year 9 students performing role-plays to demonstrate strategies that might be used by those who are being bullied and an anti-bullying leaflet competition was launched. On ‘Blue Wednesday’ students and staff were asked to wear the colour blue to demonstrate their united commitment to combat bullying and funds raised selling pin badges and key fobs went to support Child Line and the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Throughout the week Drop-In Sessions were available for students to get support and advice.

Students from the School Council raised funds for the Anti-Bullying Alliance by selling badges and key fobs on ‘Blue Wednesday.’

St Neots Schools Forum

The St Neots Schools Forum brings together all the schools in the St Neots area to improve the opportunities and experiences available to pupils and their families. To help you keep up to date with what is going on in the schools and wider community of St Neots, a new website has been launched: www.stneotsforum.org.uk

Inclusion Project

As part of the Extended Schools Agenda, St Neots Schools Forum has put in place an extensive support network for children and their families. Every school in the Forum now employs an Inclusion Worker whose role is to offer support and guidance to any child in the school. This support ranges from having someone to talk to when things are challenging at home or in school, dealing with social and emotional difficulties, through to linking children and their families with external services.

Mrs Binning

The News Group have hidden snowballs throughout the Christmas publication. How many did you spot?



RE students visit Poland

On the 19 October 2007, a group of GCSE and A-Level RE students, Mrs Boast and Miss Wade set off to Poland to visit the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau, and to visit the town of Krakow. This was the first time the RE Department has run a residential trip and they hope to run the same trip again next year!

In the first 3 days we visited the concentration camps and learnt about the treatment of the prisoners. We also had the opportunity to meet with a man called Mr Smollen, who had been a prisoner in the Auschwitz camp at the start of the war. We listened to what he had to say and how his views on life had changed, it made us realise how lucky we are to have the lives we live.

Our last 2 days were spent in Krakow. We visited the medieval Jewish quarter where the film 'Schindler's List' was made and also visited the actual factory that Oscar Schindler ran during the war. Even though much of the trip was dealing with upsetting events and there was lots of emotion, we also had some really good, fun times and were allowed to explore Krakow on our own for a morning where we discovered many lovely chocolate shops!

All of us who went agreed that it was an amazing, moving, emotional, once in a life time experience and would recommend the trip to anyone who has the opportunity to go. We also want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Boast for organising it!



John McKie & Charlotte-Rose Nicholson

Upper School Students in Poland

Mathematics: A Way Of Understanding The World

In August of 2007, I attended a 2-week NAGTY Mathematics Summer School at Lancaster University. Most people would recoil in horror at the thought of a mathematics summer school, but in reality I had such a good time!

The focus of the course was that Mathematics is all around us. We studied mathematical designs in landscaping and architecture, how patterns were put together in the most ordinary places e.g. manhole covers.

We then moved on to looking at how mathematics is used without us realising. One of the things that we looked at was Game Theory - we found out that even simple games used game theory and from this we examined different games to see if the odds were fair.

When looking at problems we learnt that there was an automatic process to go through: Entry, Attack and Review. This made us focus on what we doing and let us extend the problem even further.

Our last project was to build a catapult and work out the angle in which it had to be fired in order to gain the required distance - this made us think about leverage and force.

However, it was not all just mathematics. In the evenings there was a wide range of social events put on for us by our residential assistants (RAs). We got to choose from Chill-Out, Swimming, Badminton, Cooking, Spanish, Italian and many more! At the weekend we had a history day and went to Blackpool Water Park. There was also a Talent Night, two discos and the Black-and-White Ball. I made some really good friends and was sad to leave.

The one thing that I will always remember was told to me by one of my teachers:

It's not the answers you get, but the questions you ask!

Alexandra Hutchinson

School Council

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the Student Council? Well, we had the chance to go to the first Student Council meeting of the year with the teacher responsible, Miss Wardle, (who took over after Mrs Turner went on maternity leave).

The members of Student Council discussed current issues and problems such as 'zoning'—the process of dividing College areas into eating and non-eating areas. They talked about how they and their friends felt about the new zones and how it affects them.

They also talked about the Ready 2 Learn posters and how necessary they are to the Year 7s and other students in the College.

The Council also discussed the home-college agreement at length. Some agreed that it was a good idea while others felt that it was not necessary.

All students had a lot to say regarding projects for the Council, such as the time capsule, to be placed in the new building and the success of the catering project, both of which were started last year.

Student Council elections will now take place in

January. The Council are already planning their campaigns, and thinking about ways of enticing students to participate on the Student Council such as merits, points and vouchers. It was decided that one member from each school will stay on next year.

We interviewed Miss Wardle about taking over the Student Council: *"Mrs Turner asked me initially as I did not have a form at the time, so I went to the meetings. When Mrs Turner went on maternity leave it made sense that I took over. It is a great opportunity as students get involved and I enjoy giving them help and advice. I get comments from teachers on what they would like to include in the agenda."*

If you would like to be a part of the Student Council Elections, please ask your form tutor for details after Christmas.

Francesca Cannon and Michelle Fletcher

The School Canteen!

At the beginning of the school year, Longsands' new caterers started providing food which is healthier for the whole school. The new food has been a great success with many pupils. One pupil in Year 9 said; *"I had the school canteen food regularly before but I would say I prefer the food more now as it is healthy and still great."* Even though there are a few students who would disagree, overall most options are becoming very popular such as chicken wraps! One of the College's canteen staff said *"It is still not as popular as it was before the new regulations came in but that was always going to be the case!"* We all are enjoying the food and hope it stays at Longsands for a long time!

Kirstie Eldridge and Beverley Fletcher

Enterprise Week

Longsands' Enterprise Week took place from 12 to 16 November. The College celebrated this by involving Key Stage 3 in a variety of enterprising activities. These included *Speed Networking*; questionnaires; team building activities such as building newspaper towers; and many other fun and exciting activities. Year 9 worked on *Boombizz*, a project that encourages young people to experience the highs and lows of the business world by simulating how to run your own business.

Miss Burt set up the week's activities and made sure that it all ran smoothly.

Thank you to Miss Burt and everyone else who made the week such a great experience for all involved.

Grace Richards & Marissa Plumb



NEW YEAR, NEW YOU?

Evening Classes starting in January 2008

Muay Thai (Thai Boxing), Cookery for Men, Digital Film Making, "Club Confidence" Workshops, Digital Photography/Adobe Photoshop, Singing, Dreamweaver Web Design, Computers For Seniors, Book Club, World History, Dog Training, Patchwork & Quilting, Picture Framing, Furniture Restoration, Makaton Sign Language, Italian, Pilates, French Intermediate and Guitar (all levels).

Why don't you start the year by learning something new?

For further details or enquiries contact Judy on
01480 223348

e-mail: lcac@longsands.cambs.sch.uk
or visit our web-

site: www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/lcac

Selection from an ex-student's diary 1971!

Michael Huskisson, an ex-Longsands student who attended the College until 1972, sent in his old school diary for Mr Whatmough to read. The news group have selected the extracts they found the most interesting, take a look and see what you think!

Mon 1/2/71 : Went to school on bus. Did prefects' duty with Mrs Shore, it was alright. Trouble with the docking system on Apollo 14 means they may have to abort the moon landing.

Tue 2/2/71 : All is now okay for a moon landing. Post office strike still on. Did prefects duty.

Fri 5/2/71 : Apollo 14 landed on the moon; saw the landing and Shepard taking the first walk. Post office strike still on.

Mon 8/2/71 : There is more trouble in Ulster. At Longsands Mr Aspinall returned today. Put in cacti in Biology. Post office strike still on.

Tue 9/2/71 : Apollo 14 returned to splash down safely.

Sat 13/2/71 : Went to Bedford. Had a driving lesson with Mum at Great Gransden aerodrome, good fun. Leeds lost 3-2 to Colchester United. Post office strike is still on. Decimalisation day next Monday.

Mon 15/2/71 : Decimalisation Day. I thought it would be better if they completely got rid of the old coins. (I think shilling became 5p and two shillings 10p).

The news group found this fascinating as some of the things that Michael mentions are no longer here today. It is quite surprising really. Some of the things that he talks about are quite historical moments such as Apollo 14 landing on the moon; the problems in Northern Ireland. Some things never change - like the Post Office strikes!

Wed 26/5/71 : Got ready to collect 1000 seal signatures (these were signatures on an International Fund for Animal Welfare petition against the clubbing to death of baby seals in Canada). Leeds v Juventus abandoned. Watched cricket match. Put reinforcers on Chemistry notes.

Thu 27/5/71 : Got 81 seal signatures today at Longsands; not bad going should make 500.

Fri 18/6/71 : Had first professional driving lesson; wasn't bad, need to check observation, use of clutch and coasting. Last day of prefects' duty thank goodness. Poured with rain all afternoon.

We found this quite interesting as we are not nearly as politically aware today. Also, it is interesting that the 6th Form used to be prefects. Another aspect that we liked was that his diary shows that people have the same interests today, and it is easy to relate to, even if it is talking about something that happened 35 years ago!

Fri 24/9/71 : Elections for Head Boy and Head Girl at Longsands. I voted for Dayoord (Sheikh?) and then Gosling. Anne Denney is Head Girl and Liz Allen her deputy.

Most of us did not even know that there used to be a Head Boy & Head Girl at Longsands! Overall, the diary provides an insight into a Longsands student's life a generation ago. We hope you enjoyed the extracts as much as we did.

Michelle, Beverley, Marissa, Grace, Kirstie & Frankie

Academic Planning Day

On Tuesday 20 and Thursday 22 November, Longsands College Academic Planning Day took place. Grace Richards and Marissa Plumb spoke to Mrs Andrews, Head of Aspen School, responsible for organising the day.

"It is a good opportunity for a student to check his/her progress, and a unique chance for a student and their parent to have a one-to-one with form tutor. The idea was initiated by Mr Whatmough, the College Principal, in response to a survey that suggested parents would value more contact with the form tutor. The Planning Day illustrates how Longsands focuses on every

individual in the school," commented Mrs Andrews.

We think that it is a really good way of boosting people's confidence. It helps students to understand *how* and what they can do in order to improve in different areas of their College life.

This year's Academic Planning Day was a great success. It is hoped that the targets set will help students to focus on the year ahead.

Marissa Plumb & Grace Richards

Attendance – note from the Principal

We have recently reviewed trends in students' attendance across the College. The general situation continues to be very favourable: the great majority of Longsands students have very good or excellent attendance. In key areas that we monitor very carefully there is stability or, indeed, improvement. (There is, for example, a small but welcome decrease in holidays taken in term time.) The area that recent analysis has highlighted as a possible concern is that of medical appointments. We would ask that, where possible, these should continue to be made outside the normal College day. It may be worth noting that a good number of reference requests now ask for a breakdown of reasons for absence.

Attendance Data : Explanation

A change in the regulations from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) resulted in some apparently incorrect statements about students' attendance on the autumn term assessments. The anomaly arises from the College's 'staggered start' to the year. In the past, this was covered by a special code but now we are obliged to record the first day of term as an absence for Year Groups which return a day later.

Our view is that a phased introduction of students into the College benefits everyone but especially the new Year 7. Many large schools follow a similar practice. The new regulations are unhelpful on several levels and we have written to the Local Authority lead officer, who may be able to make representations to the DCSF.

Because the attendance figure for individual students is picked up automatically from the attendance program, the change in regulations affected what was shown in the assessments. We apologise for the confusion and, in some cases, disappointment this caused.

Mr R Whatmough

Parent Governors

Two valid nominations for Parent Governor have been received. In the absence of any other nominations received by the end of school on 26 November 2007, Mr Waterfield and Mrs Turner were duly elected as a Parent Governors to serve a four year term.

Proud 2 Be Loud

Proud 2 Be Loud is a club aimed at supporting young people during the school holidays. Most half-terms, sixty youngsters from ages 11-14 attend different activities in order to develop skills aimed at increasing confidence, problem solving and dealing with conflict. All the activities are run by the Huntingdon Resource Base.

Tyrell Golding organises many of the activities. Every Thursday evening the Proud 2 be Loud management group (run by people over 13 years old) meet at the town coffee bar, where they organise and review future activities.

If you are interested or would like further information, please ask Paige Clark 8PGD who give you Tyrell Golding's (the Club leader's) contact details.

Paige Clarke



Longsands College
media arts specialist status

After College Video -
Freebie Sessions for Seniors

Open to adults who have no experience of
creating video film and who would like to
know the important basics

You might have purchased a new video
camera or be interested in purchasing one
and don't know where to start

Confused about how to edit video?

These sessions are for you and available free
of charge as part of Longsands commitment
to lifelong learning

Wednesday Term Time 3.30pm - 5pm
First Session - 16/01/2008
Telephone Alison McColl : 01480 353535

"Enrichment opportunities such as interviewing television reporters and producing
podcasts have enhanced personal development!" 08/02/08