



Longsands College Newsletter

www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

December 2010
at Longsands...

From the Executive Principal..

Although the worst of the recent bad weather never quite made its way to St Neots, I should like to thank students and staff for enabling the College to run more or less as normal over recent weeks. Many staff make quite long journeys to get to work and some had to do so in very difficult conditions. We have also experienced major problems with the heating system in various sections of our buildings. A combination of burst pipes and malfunctioning heating units has sometimes made for difficult working conditions. In the great majority of cases, however, lessons continued uninterrupted.

We are, of course, only part way through winter. May I remind everyone that it is usually not conditions in St Neots itself that determine whether or not the College is open but the likelihood of students who travel by coach and staff being able to get to and from Longsands in reasonable safety. Please see the article entitled *Emergency Closure* elsewhere in this newsletter. This advice, particularly about closure *during* the day, is particularly important.

This year's Christmas production was *Mulan*. The preparation and rehearsal periods were exceptionally challenging. It is to everyone's credit that the performances were enjoyable and conveyed great enthusiasm on the part of

students from across the College. Thank you to staff who supported the production especially Mrs Koncewicz, who stepped in as director at the end of the summer term.

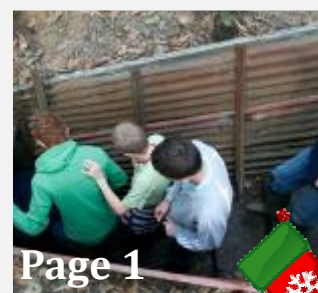
Still to come are many other seasonal events such as the Carol Service, the KS3 Christmas Bazaar and the Staff/Sixth Form Quiz. In their different ways, these all bear witness to the lively but also thoughtful spirit of students and staff. Again, thank you to everyone involved in keeping these traditions alive and well.

We are looking forward next term to celebrating the College's 50th Anniversary. Please see the short article about one of the more 'visible' ways in which we hope to mark this period.

On behalf of Longsands students, staff and governors,

Happy Christmas and New Year

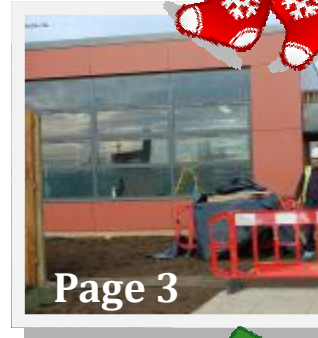
Robert Whatmough
Executive Principal



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End of Term Arrangements

Last Day of Term Timings

Periods 1 and 2 normal

11.00 – 11.30 30-minute break

11.30 – 12.25 Period 3

12.25 – 1.15 Period 4

Buses arrive at 1.15 and leave at 1.25



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Longsands at 50: Uniform



A special 'edition' of our uniform will be provided at no extra charge to students who purchase new uniform from January 2011 through to the summer term.

The variation is a '50' rather tastefully inserted into the logo on the sleeve of the polo shirt and left front chest area of the sweatshirt.

While the special items will not be available until January, there will be no time limit on how many months/years they can be worn.

We hope that students and parents will feel this helps mark a special period in the College's history.

Also available: special badges, priced at £1 each including a donation to a local charity.



Disney's *Mulan* Junior

Since last summer, Mrs Koncewicz has been working with around 40 students from Years 7-11 to prepare for the Christmas production of *Mulan*. Students have been creative and co-operative; all involved have really enjoyed the action-packed rehearsals. The show promises to be a real spectacle full of live singing performances, acting and dancing – the dress rehearsal was a joy to watch and the technical crew were wonderful - organising all the audio and lighting for the show.

Mrs Doyle and Miss Allison have supported Mrs Koncewicz in organising hair, make-up and costumes. The main dancers wear leggings, vest tops, and Chinese bibs, which make for a vibrant display once all the cast are on the stage. We interviewed a couple of students taking part; "I feel we have all done really well in the making although I think we could have had more rehearsals to make it better." Another commented, "While it seems to be a bit bumpy in places I think it will turn out to be a success on the night."

We will update you about it in the next edition.

Sarah Niven & Amy Jenkins

International Education Week



During Longsands' International Education Week 15-20 November

2010, there were a series of activities to celebrate everything international.

To encourage students to develop an international perspective is an important part of life at Longsands. The idea is to help students understand the world around them and prepare for their own role within it.

During the week, students followed international themes within the curriculum in some of their lessons. Activities for students in KS3 to KS5 included Spanish building techniques, French beauty treatments, audio projects and International Enterprise Week video projects, ethical discussions in RE, quizzes in MFL and Geography, Russian, Chinese and Egyptian multiplication and food tasting.

Language leaders visited Year 7 classes to give them the opportunity to try international food products. Key Stage 3 tutor groups worked through an Oxfam scheme of work that shows students how to budget for a mobile phone and how important it is that we

recycle them so that others less fortunate can benefit.

At Longsands, students are committed to learning experiences beyond the classroom. During the week, a German animated film screening was offered to all students in the College library at lunchtime. The kitchen staff also got involved, providing Moroccan, American and Greek style food in the canteen.

The International Global Dimension and its impact on young people is really important as, in addition to preparing young people for the international world of work, it is vital that as a school we work together to share information about different cultures, beliefs and languages to ensure students have the chance to learn about others and themselves.

If you have any old mobile phones, please bring them to the Library where they are being collected on behalf of Oxfam St Neots.

Many thanks to all the staff involved: this year's events were especially challenging for staff to organise as it was Anti-Bullying Week and Enterprise Week at the same time!

Ellie Sadler & Ella-Louise Parker

News in Brief



Film Club

The film club runs on Wednesday evenings with an occasional extra showing on Monday. They show all the latest films that you may want to see, for example, the latest in the Twilight saga was shown this week. You're allowed to bring your own refreshments (no popcorn). They are all shown in the Library.

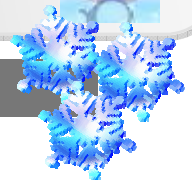
Textile Club

Who?	Miss Granger & anyone interested
What?	Textile club
Where?	D33
When?	Tuesday after school 'til 4.15 pm.

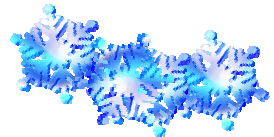
Badminton

On 30th October Badminton teams from Longsands (an Under 14 and an Under 18 team) played their first fixture of the season which was a division placement at Hinchbrook School. They did incredibly well with the U14 team of **Jake Dexter, Aaron Kumar, Troy Beavis** and **Cameron Harris** being placed in division 2 as 3rd seeds and the U18 team of **Tom Sander, Josh Dexter, Kurt Saunders** and **Kayleigh Kirby**, along with **Daniel Steel** stepping in to cover for **Josh**, were placed in division 2 as 2nd seeds in their respective age groups. Two students from Year 13 **Campbell Wilson** and **Gavin Kirby** managed the teams and felt they put in a performance to be proud of. In addition, **Campbell** and **Gavin** along with **Alex Wilson** represented the Cambridgeshire Schools' Badminton Association Team, which selected the top players from the county's schools and they were placed in division 1 as 1st seeds, only dropping one game.

Gavin Kirby



PE Department



On 1 December, fifty-six Longsands students aged between 11 and 16 represented the College in the District Cross Country Trials. The trials were held at Hinchingsbrooke School on an extremely cold and frosty day.

Butterflies fluttered in our stomachs, as the excitement began. We clambered onto the bus, jostling and excited, ready for an afternoon of cross country. Year Group by Year Group we lined up at the start ready to brave the snow and ice facing us. People were willing to slide everywhere in order to bag their place in the top 16. After a long and treacherous run, we finally reached the finish.

One girl said, "I loved running for the College, it's a great achievement. Congratulations to all 40 students that qualified, you should be very proud." **Henry Dalrymple (Year 7)** commented, "It felt good because we came first and overall the school did really well."

The next round is the County Championships, held at Longsands College on 20 January. Well done to everyone who ran, facing that course wasn't easy!

Emma Evans & Karlissa Smith

Christmas Bazaar



The Christmas bazaar is always an exciting event for everyone and rightly so when you see what we have to offer this year!

Firstly, Year 9 have come up with some really

interesting ideas for their stalls, which should encourage other students to spend their pennies to raise money for local charities.

9MDP are taking pictures around the school and students will try to guess where they are! **9AMM** will run the stall Just Dance on the Wii! The Shoot the Goalie Stall will be organised by **9PRS**. You need to score, but don't expect it to be easy...

9FJW will run the teddy tombola. You may (or may not) win the one you want, but that's most of the fun!

Year 8, having already experienced the Christmas Bazaar once, will be running their stalls with even more efficiency than last year. Amongst their stalls are **8HEV** who are running the lemon eating stall. You eat as many lemons as you can in 30 seconds and if you win, you receive a prize! **8NNW** will create a human fruit machine—which promises to be very interesting. **8JB** will be running the cake stall, Yummy Cakes!

Finally, Year 7 will be organising their stalls for the first time. **7PPF** is running a feel the item stall. You put your hand in the box and have to guess what's inside! *I'm a Student Get Me Out of Here!* based on a popular television show will be organised by **7KEB**. **7EMM** are running a mini version of 'The Cube' where the contestants will complete a series of tricky tasks for a grand prize.

Many other tutor groups have put a huge amount of effort into organising their stalls - good luck to everyone who will participate.

Carmen Ralph

Anti-Bullying Week 2010

On Monday 15 November, Anti-Bullying Week took place. Anti-Bullying Week is an opportunity for young people to take part in a variety of anti-bullying activities. I asked Mr Taylor "What's the reason for Anti-Bullying week?" He said, "The reason for Anti-Bullying week is because everyone should be able to come to school and feel safe". This year's Anti-Bullying Week involved activities such as selling Anti-Bullying Alliance items in the Ritchie Hall during break times, assemblies to students throughout the week, which included stories from children who had been bullied, and gave ideas of how to avoid becoming involved in bullying and what to do if you or someone you know is experiencing difficulties or is distressed by this very serious issue.



Jordan Lydon

The Clothes Show Live 2010

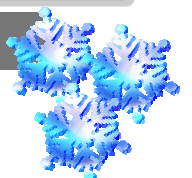
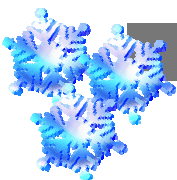
On Monday 6 December, Miss Granger took 45 students to The Clothes Show Live in Birmingham. There were a variety of acts such as a catwalk show, at which designers showed off their new ranges, and a movie themed show, showing different styles of outfits for each movie type. Also a new band called INJU5TICE sang their new single. There were various stalls from high street brands, shoes, make-up, magazines etc.

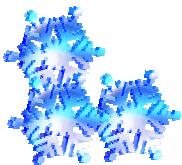
Miss Granger commented, "The trip was very successful and I think the students had a really good time, they left with big smiles on their faces! I liked the idea of different universities coming in and showing their individual designs, it was nice to see them getting a head start in their careers."

We talked to **Hannah** and **Robyn** (**9MDP**) to ask them about their experience. "We had a really good time; it was everything we expected, and more! It was an amazing experience and we would love to go again! There was lots of singing and dancing, and we liked the catwalk and the show, but some of the outfits were a bit extreme!"



Emily Hooker & Joanne Childerley





Molly Moore Charity Production



On Monday 13 December, students at the College will host a dance show in the Ritchie Hall. The show is being previewed for all age groups to raise money for a girl called Molly Moore who is in need of our help. A friend of Molly's (**Toni 11ENH**) decided to produce a show to help her have an easier life.

Molly, now eight, from Offord Cluny had a stroke in August 2009, which made her unable to walk, speak or swallow. After intensive treatment she is able to walk and talk. This September she went back to school in Offord. She will, however, still need a lot of specialist treatment as her motor skills have been severely affected.

Family videos show Molly and little sister Daisy racing each other, giggling and laughing as they bounce around in their saddles. Molly a wide-eyed joyful child, is strong and determined. Last Christmas back home in Cambridgeshire Molly smiled and then she laughed.

"We hope the show, which aims to raise money for Molly and children like her, will be a huge success. Many local schools have been invited to come and watch, and we are hoping to raise £200-£300! Pupils who come and watch will see a variety of dance styles and some Christmas themed dances. Some of the students involved are also hoping to earn their dance leaders awards!"—Toni (11ENH).

Tickets for adults are £2 and students are £1.
The show is 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm in the Ritchie Hall.

Joanne Childerley & Emily Hooker

KS4 Skills Cambridgeshire

Just over 300 Year 11 students attended the Skills Cambridgeshire event at Wood Green Animal Shelter on Thursday 14 October. The careers event involved companies such as Anglian Water, Napp Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge Building Society, the Armed Forces, College of Animal Welfare, Kiss FM, Davis Langdon and West Anglia Training Association. They have already joined the event's funding partners Cambridge Regional College, Aim-higher, Peterborough College of Adult Education, Anglia Ruskin University, Huntingdonshire Regional College, Connexions, the Learning and Skills Council and The College of West Anglia.



The students were kept active in physical pursuits as well as initiatives involving the mind. All enjoyed the event and relished the opportunity to experience a good cross-section of work and further education choices. Plenty of 'freebies' were gathered for future reference.

Key Stage 4 Team

Year 10 Visit the Battlefields



We arrived at Longsands nice and early, at 6.00 am ready to leave for France and Belgium. By 6.30 am we were on the road, *en route* to the euro tunnel. After a seven-hour trip to Belgium, we went straight to Ypres where we went through the 'In Flanders' Fields' museum: we were able to find out about soldiers and civilians from the era and look at some fascinating objects recovered from the war. Wellies out, we next

went for an exciting trip through a frontline trench which is kept as realistic as possible (including as much mud as possible). In this trench we were able to get a feel for what life must have been like in these conditions.

Tyne Cot cemetery was next on our list and there, we were able to look through the thousands of war graves and search for family members: this place was very moving for all. After our evening meal, we went straight to Menin Gate where we listened to the Last Post ceremony and saw the

thousands of names of the missing upon the walls. Then the chocolate shops... need I say more?

Next morning we arranged our kit and prepared for our second day in Belgium and France. First stop was Langemark German cemetery, which was also very moving for us. We laid our first of two wreaths here. From here we went back through France and visited the memorial at Thiepval, which bears the names of thousands of Commonwealth soldiers killed during the Battle of the Somme, and many people found family names here as well. We laid our second wreath here. After this it was straight to a section of the Somme for an interesting walk across 'no man's land' and a chance to see how the trenches were constructed.

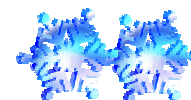
After this we went to Vimy Ridge which was amazing, especially for showing how close the trench lines were and how deep the craters were.

Then, after two amazing days of fun, tears, laughter and amazing experiences, we returned home.

Jay Milne



Creative Enterprise



A couple of weeks ago, Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in all sorts of events, including a variety of fun, exciting, involving and challenging puzzles, as part of Enterprise Week. We managed to interview some key figures and also those involved with the activities, fun and excitement!

We caught up with one of the Year 7 form tutors, Miss Vote to see what they did. She told us that her form *“engaged in lots of activities including building a tower out of newspaper, making a poster all about teamwork and making a model cinema!”* She also told us that her class really enjoyed all the fun activities they took part in and also that they learned quite a few skills from the experience, including business skills and group work. They also developed team work and engineering skills!

After this, we set out to find someone who was in on the action and was in the Year 8 classes to find out what they had been up to! After searching for a form, we managed to get an interview with Josh who told us that he had *“made a poster that was all about Longsands and the things that we do”* and he too, confirmed that he had enjoyed the activities and that *“by working with people I*

didn't know instead of my mates, I developed better team work skills”

We also interviewed Jacob, a Year 9 student who told us that he took part in the activity called BoomBiz, which involved working in groups to run your own business and sell things! He said he enjoyed it but would prefer to have a wider range of choice in what to do next year and also told us that he developed a lot of skills from this experience such as business, communication and financial skills!

Lastly, we managed to get an interview with Miss Morgan, the organiser of Enterprise Week. She said that *“the event as a whole was a huge success and everyone involved had a great time and found that it was really fun”*. She also told us that she thought Enterprise Week had been a fantastic chance for people to work together and develop creativity, team work and risk taking!

So, overall Creative Enterprise Week was an amazing success with all Years and even the form tutors!

Joe Holmes & Amy Jenkins

All-Weather Pitch Nears Completion

The all-weather pitch will hopefully be finished as soon as the New Year starts. Work has been delayed due to the recent extreme weather conditions. We talked to Mrs Christie about the pitch and she said *“I think the all-weather pitch is a great idea, as it will allow people to play sports such as hockey and even football in all weather conditions. The pitch will be able to be rented out by the public and it will be a great asset to the community. We will be hoping to also build some seating and sheltered areas on the pitch in the near future. Also students should know that they can only wear flat trainers and not proper football boots on the pitch as it will damage it.”* Year 8 student Tom commented, *“Yes I think the all-weather pitch will be better than grass as the lines of the pitches will be marked out more clearly, it will be enjoyable to use and can be used in all weather conditions so students won't get muddy.”*



We look forward to trying out the new Weather pitch as soon as possible.

Amy Jenkins, Joe Holmes & Jordan Lydon

Enterprise Week

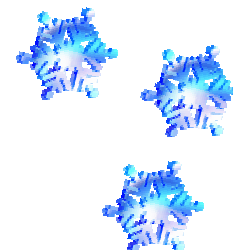
During Enterprise Week in November, each form had to split into 5 groups with a different challenge. The 5 challenges were: Design a Trainer, All About My Form, Put St Neots on the Map, Design an Enterprising Poster and Build a Tower. Creativity was definitely key in all these challenges and none of them would have been possible without teamwork.



In the tower challenge there was an extra special amount of teamwork as during the time, they had to work to build the tallest tower against other forms and against the clock. In the shoe challenge there was a lot of creativity involved as it had to be a completely new shoe. Also, the challengers had to pitch it in Dragons' Den Style to Miss Morgan, Mr Twiss and Mr Diggory. The week was a great experience and students learnt new skills and worked as teams trying their best and having fun!

2010 Winners:

Design a Trainer – AJD
Build a Tower – NNW
All About Your Form – JJW
Put St Neots On The Map – DAN
Enterprising Poster – JB



Overall Winners:

1st JJW
2nd NNW
3rd DAN

Ellie Clark, Chloe Smith, Karlissa Smith

Emergency Closure Procedures

Emergency Closure

There is no change for the time being to the procedures that will be operated for emergency closures, eg as a result of adverse weather conditions. Over the past year, we have established the possibility of contacting parents by email or text message but this is only possible if particular staff can get into College. For that reason, local radio is likely to be the means of communication.

The decision on whether or not to close has to be based on the likelihood of sufficient staff being able to get to work for us to be able to deliver a reasonable curriculum. Because many staff live some distance from College, conditions in St Neots itself may not be the determining factor.

These are the key points from previous issued advice:

Emergency Closure Before School

If the College is to be closed, we shall inform the local radio station at the earliest opportunity. Our main line of communication will be through Radio Cambridgeshire on 96.0 FM. We may also use the front page of our website.

Closure During the Day

It is essential that each student knows what she or he is to do if the College has to close early in the interests of safety. The temptation is to say, "Wait at College until I can pick you up." However, if roads are blocked or trains cancelled, this option can be far from satisfactory. For most young people, waiting for you to pick them up in the warmth of a friend's home in St Neots where telephone contact is relatively easy and there could be a bed for the night is a far better prospect.

The health and safety of students will always be our first consideration. However, experience tells us that students get very anxious indeed when they are left in College. The situation of staff who stay behind to look after students but who also have families waiting for them needs to be borne in mind.

Sometimes coach companies ask for students to be released early – a request that has to be met in fairness to the drivers and the majority of students living in a particular location. In this case, students need a refuge near home if they cannot gain access to their own house.

It would be most helpful if every parent discussed with their son or daughter the course of action to be followed as suggested above.

School Closures on the Cambridgeshire County Council Website

The College also notifies Cambridgeshire County Council of the closure of the school in the event of bad weather as soon as decision to close the school has been made. Parents can access the site via the following:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolclosure>

Please note: In order to find out whether there is information relating to your school, first use the A-Z to find your school and then refer to the current status, indicated in the table. **Where status is blank the Local Authority has not received any information.**

Parents and students are also advised to listen out for school closure information on the local radio during bad weather.