



# Longsands College Newsletter

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January 2011  
at Longsands...

## Longsands Learning Partnership Lead Students

A new scheme, Lead Students, is starting here at Longsands, where a group of Year 12 students mentor selected Year 9 students. The Lead Students from Longsands and St Neots Community College worked together on a Skills Development Session in the Creative Exchange on Thursday 10 February. The session was led by Mrs Dunn (in school support teacher) and Mr Pereira (from SNCC). They were supported by three Year 9 students from SNCC who are involved in the scheme at the College. The Year 9s were able to provide a valuable insight into the benefits of the project and the students openly discussed



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how the project has helped them at SNCC. The Year 12s worked on developing their listening and mentoring skills during the session.

The aim of the project at Longsands is to provide a targeted group with support

and extra help. It is hoped that the Year 9 students (picked by tutors and the Key Stage 3 team) will work on improving their Attitude to Learning, and other areas of their work at the College. The students involved will talk to their 6th Form partner to discuss behaviour, A2L, lessons and other issues. Mrs Turner will lead the project here at Longsands with the support of the Year 12 students and the Key Stage 3 Team.

Amy Jenkins & Sarah Niven



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### Bringing Students to College by Car

Please will all parents who drive their children to College ensure that they use the pick-up/drop-off zone just inside the gate on Longsands Road. Students should then follow the path, thus avoiding unnecessary risk. The car park is out of bounds to students, as a matter of health and safety. Should you need to pick up your child during the school day or bring him/her in later (eg after a medical appointment), or come to the College for a meeting you may, of course, use the main car park as your child will be under your supervision and the area much less busy.

Thank you.



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# Longsands at 50: Uniform

Students have been working on collecting information on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for some time now. They have been researching information ready to produce a video presentation for the 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held at the College on Friday the 18 March. The students have interviewed past headteachers, students and teachers. They have scanned in letters and more, so it should be an interesting event especially for any old students of the College to attend. Entry will be £15. Badges and uniform are available to buy from the College's Finance Office.



Kate Amos & Emily Hooker

## Olympian Redmond Visits Longsands

Former Olympic athlete, Derek Redmond visited Longsands on Wednesday 2 February to give a motivational presentation to the whole of Year 10. His speech involved his highest and lowest moments of his career, a variety of magic tricks performed by 'Eugenie Matthias, President of the Magic Club of Great Britain, and the 5 main keys to the success of his career. These were:

- 1) team work;
- 2) motivation;
- 3) goals;
- 4) determination;
- 5) self-belief.

Megan Day (Year 10) said *'He showed me that if you want something badly enough, then you should go for it!'* Overall, Derek Redmond's visit was a great success and one that many people will not forget.

Liam Jones

## Japan Week

A little piece of Japan was brought to Longsands during Japan week, where Year 7s participated in fun and interesting activities. The activities included Japanese Drumming, Haiku poem writing, trying different kinds of



Japanese food and learning about the geography and culture of Japan. A manga workshop was also run by two Year 9 students. We spoke to some Year 7 students who took part in



the week, who all said they enjoyed it and learnt a lot about the country.

One student who took part in the Manga workshop said that she enjoyed drawing and the workshop helped further her skills. *"I enjoyed Japan Week, I learnt how to draw manga better."*

Amy Jenkins & Sarah Niven

## News in Brief

### Just a note from the Music Department ...

to invite you to our Spring Concert which will take place on Wednesday 9th March, at 7.00 pm.

The concert will include a variety of soloists and ensembles performing from a wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions, including African Drumming!

### Film Club

Next term, film club will be returning with a theme of alternative realities.

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Floor** (15) (Fantasy, Mystery, Romance) – Hannon Fuller, a computer scientist, has made a discovery and wants to tell his colleague Douglas Hall, who knows someone is after him so sends letters through a parallel world just like the 30s. Fuller has been murdered and Douglas has to find out where he was the night Fuller was murdered.

**The Matrix** (15) (Action, Adventure, Sci-fi) - A computer hacker learns from mysterious rebels about the true nature of his reality and his role in the war against its controllers. Starring Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne and Carrie-Anne Moss.

**Inception** (12) (Action, Mystery, Sci-fi) - In a world where technology exists to enter the human mind through dream invasion, a highly skilled thief is given a final chance at redemption which involves executing his toughest job to date: Inception.

Emily Hooker, Kate Amos & Joanne Childerley



# Junk Modelling

TV's Max McMurdo visited Longsands College to work on some 'junk modelling' with some Year 9 students. Max started his own business and has been on 'Dragons Den' to show them the products he designed. He helped students Hannah and Eleanor from MDP, Marielle from NTD and Katie and Alice from TWG to create and realise their own designs. The students produced their models from recycled products and presented them to us (we were some of the Dragons from the Dragons' Den!).

Hannah, Eleanor and Marielle's product was called 'Tots and Tails' and they created a hanging mobile for babies made out of clothes hangers, wool and socks. They had also made puppets to attach to it, with the old socks; these could also be taken off so that they would become finger puppets. Katie and Alice had the idea of making sports bibs out of recycled materials, which had come from charity shops. Their product name was 'Eco Bibs!' with velcro letters that could change position, a button you could put your earrings through and a pocket to put your inhaler in. These were both winning products. The

groups will be back in the next half term to try and sell their products.



Joanne Childerley, Emily Hooker & Kate Amos

## The King's Speech Trip

On Tuesday 8 February, the Media Department took 34 Year 12 Film and Media students to Cambridge Arts Picture House Cinema to see *The King's Speech* and attend a lecture by a member of the film's marketing team. *The King's Speech* is based on the true story of King George VI and his struggle to overcome his stammer. The film has received huge critical acclaim since its release earlier this year, receiving fourteen BAFTA nominations, twelve Oscar nominations and winning a Golden Globe for Colin Firth's performance. It also received a great review by those Year 12 students who attended:

*"Colin Firth definitely deserved his Golden Globe"* – Sophie Searle

*"Geoffrey Rush was perfectly suited for his role as Lionel Logue"* – Craig Jones

The marketing lecture was conducted by Colin Burrows from the Special Treats Production Company who have also organised marketing strategies for *Casino Royale*, *Cemetery Junction*, *Pride and Prejudice* and many more. He led students through the marketing process (which surprisingly starts before the film even goes into production), the differences between American and British marketing, how incorrect marketing can cause a film to fail at the box office and the best way to get a job in the marketing industry. The talk was perfectly suited for those taking Film Studies as it forms a key part of their AS exam, and allowed Media Studies students to gain a better understanding of a key element of the media they could choose to further explore in their A2 year. Colin gave an amazing lecture, involving the audience as much as possible and providing an insight into his own experiences, including his work with Ricky Gervais. The students found the talk enjoyable and informative:

*"The marketing talk linked really well with our lessons"* – Jordan Ulmer

*"The marketing speech was beneficial to me as it furthered my knowledge and understanding of the media industry"* – Danielle Bailey

The Media Department have just moved into their new suite of classrooms and would like to say a big thank you to the Blockbuster store at Tower Fields Leisure Park in Huntingdon for their kind donation of posters and point of view sales to decorate our new classrooms.

## Longsands Sports & Fitness Centre

Construction started in summer 2010, the building having been planned for a year or so before then. It took about 8 months for the structure to be completed. The exciting new building includes a new all-weather pitch, studio space, changing rooms and PE Offices.



The building and facilities will support students learning in PE, martial arts, aerobics, boxing and dance. Facilities include; a kitchen, laundry room, PE store cupboard, 4 changing rooms including showers and toilets. The Clarke Hall (named after former Vice Principal Graham Clarke who died in 2008) is filled with mirrors and bright red walls perfect for GCSE and A Level Dance! The building is also used by the local community for adult classes.



Ella-Louise Parker & Ellie Sadler



# ROYAL OPERA HOUSE FANFARE COMPETITION

A group of Year 10 Music GCSE students has been working on an original composition for entry to a prestigious national competition. **Callum Turner, James Moir, Oliver Dawes, Matthew Hunt, Sally Barker, Peter Burgoyne, Sam Parsons and Katie Scott-Fuff** worked to prepare a short piece of music which could be played to signal the start of performances at the Royal Opera House in London. The opportunity to take part came about when Natalie Ellis, an ex-Longsands student and now an Education Officer at the Royal Opera House, contacted us with the details and Mrs Pearcey went to London to find out more. The entries will be judged by a well-known composer and the winners will have their pieces professionally recorded by the orchestra at the Royal Opera House prior to being broadcast there. Wish our students luck!



Want to see what's involved? Log on to [www.youtube.com/roheducation](http://www.youtube.com/roheducation) to watch footage from last year's trial competition or on to [www.numu.org](http://www.numu.org) to listen to our entry.

## Year 9 Options

On Friday 4 February, the GSCE options process started. Individual letters were sent out to Year 9 students, along with the KS4 options booklet containing all the information to support Year 9 in making important decisions that will help them later on in life. It started with Parents' Evening on 3 February, followed by an assembly with all the information needed.

Options give you the opportunity to make choices, which complement you as an individual and what you want to do with your life. You are finding the right pathway as you are a individual and the College hopes this will support you to personalise your timetable. There are many teachers involved in the process; some such as The Senior Leadership Team and Key Stage 3 & 4 Teams run the options interviews held this week; parents are welcomed to participate in the process.

If after the interview you still need help or are unsure about your decisions and options, you are welcome to make another appointment with one of the interviewers, or you could go to A10 to Connexions if you feel you need another opinion.

Ellie Sadler & Ella-Louise Parker

## Year 10 Photographers & Scientists Visit Donarbon

Towards the end of January, two groups of Year 10s studying either Science or Photography went on an exciting trip to Donarbon waste disposal in Cambridge. Here they had the chance to practise their photography skills whilst learning how machinery is used on waste sites. **Leah**, who studies Photography told us; *"It was a very educational trip. I learnt a lot about the machines and I was also pleased with the photos I ended up with."*

Roughly 300 photographs were taken all together of the land, machinery and waste. Overall the groups had a really good time and it was a nice day out. The trip helped them with some of their Photography coursework. Mr Gamby was one of the staff on the trip. He told us *"It definitely didn't smell as badly as I thought it would, and we had a good time. It was very interesting. I took some photographs myself as well."*

Kate Amos, Emily Hooker & Joanne Childerley

## Private Peaceful Trip

In March, the English Department will take a group of 50 Year 9 students to see *Private Peaceful* (a book written by Michael Morpurgo) as a theatre production at the Keys Theatre in Peterborough. *Private Peaceful* follows the life of Tommo Peaceful going through life in the era of the First World War. He tells the story of him and his brother Charlie, through his childhood and finishes with the present time. *"I'm quite excited, I can't wait to see how they have adapted the book into a production as the book was very moving"* commented Miss Prabhu-Naik, who will be leading the trip.

Emily Hooker, Joanne Childerley & Kate Amos



## Tesco Vouchers

Tesco vouchers for schools and clubs collection starts again on 28th February and runs until 8th May. All vouchers must be sent off by July 1st. If you shop at Tesco, please send your vouchers in to school, where the collection box is located in the library. There are all sorts of materials available, from computers and

cameras to pencils and paper, so you really can help us.

Thank you for your support.

