



Longsands College Newsletter



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Year 8 Interview Prime Minister

On Wednesday 12 March, along with thousands of young reporters across the UK, Longsands students tackled a range of subjects for TV, radio and online reports on School Report News Day. On Wednesday, 45 Year 8 students met in the College library to gather the news. The library base for the production teams was a hive of activity where groups of students took on the responsibilities of reporter, director, producer, cameraman and sound engineer.

Year 8 decided on their headlines for the day and worked to a deadline of 2 pm for their TV and audio output. With the support of their teachers and Graham Hughes, Senior Broadcaster for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, the students all managed to meet their tight deadline.



Students came up with their own headlines - National Anthem, Nationally Forgotten, The Budget, The Longsands Enterprise Centre and Sports provision in UK Schools.

Other reports broadcast more widely by BBC were an interview with Bill Turnbull earlier in the year and on Thursday 13 March, Longsands pupils David Ho and Robyn Barron interviewed Prime Minister Gordon Brown along with students from a school in Bedford and one in Norfolk. Students met up with a BBC reporter at the train station in St Neots



and were filmed on their journey for a 'Look East' report. It was a chance in a lifetime for the two Year 8s whose interview slot with the Prime Minister included a tour of the Cabinet room at 10 Downing street by the PM himself.

Year 8 students Robyn and David asked some pertinent questions about carbon emissions, sea defences and play schemes.

The Downing street website comments that one of the best questions of the day was put by Robyn from Longsands College, who asked the Prime Minister about child poverty. "There are too many children growing up where there's not enough help given," he told her.

Mr Brown went on to explain that child benefit has risen to £19 a week and that grants are available help fund families that have problems. "The numbers in absolute poverty now has fallen to 1.6 million. There has been a big drop, but we've got a lot more to do," he added.



Right: Robyn and David arrive at Number 10.

Above right: Robyn, David and other students from the Eastern region interview Gordon Brown.

Above Left: Graham Hughes briefs Year 8 School Reporters.

Photos (above & left) courtesy of the BBC. www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport

" We are Robyn and David from Longsands College and we had the opportunity to interview Gordon Brown the Prime Minister. Last Wednesday we took the train to London and had a tour of the Houses of Parliament. Then we went to BBC Milbank and spent the afternoon preparing our questions. On Tuesday 11 March we met at St Neots station and took the train to King's Cross. We then travelled on the Underground to Westminster and walked to Milbank again. This is where we made the final preparations for our interview. From Milbank we walked to Downing Street and entered Number 10. We were taken to the White Room and there we interviewed Mr Brown. It was a once in a life time opportunity and the best day ever!"

From Robyn and David's blog on the Look East Website. Have a look yourselves: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/school_report





PETS IN DANGER OF ROAD-DEATH!

RUN-AWAY PETS ARE IN DANGER OF TRAFFIC ON OUR ROADS!

Pets are running away and getting hit by cars or even worse, killed!

The children of St. Neots are now starting to worry about the safety of their pets. They are now starting to keep their pets in cages when the owners go out, for example, to school, work or eating out.

I asked several people down my road if any of their pets have been hurt in a car accident and five pets had been hurt or killed. One cat had no eye, another, three legs and no tail. My own dog has only three legs. Two cats in the street had been killed recently and many more had previously been killed.

I myself have a dog which was hit by a moving car. Vets think that Maggie was trying to run after a car and she had slipped and she caught her front left leg underneath the wheel of a car that was passing by and that it had not noticed her in the road. Local people were pulling up, when owner Carole, 49, received a call from a local vets surgery to say that the dog (Maggie) had been hit by a car. Maggie was taken to a rescue kennel where they have a vet who amputated her leg. She has been without that leg for roughly three years.

The speed of cars is also a worry for some of the pet owners in St. Neots. People that may be considering getting a cat or dog should also be worried.



Hannah 14 from St. Neots commented on this *"I'm scared about the amount of speeding cars and careless drivers in our town. I am getting a puppy and, if my puppy were hit by a car, I would be devastated! I see so many sick animals around our towns as well; that it makes me worry how long it will be until something worse happens."* I also interviewed a local vet and asked them how many animals they get that have been injured in a car accident. Their answer was *"Roughly we get about two or three a week that have been involved in a car accident. Sometimes it depends on the weather because in the winter the roads are covered in ice and are slippery so cars can't avoid hitting an animal but in the summer the drivers get hot and drowsy and can't concentrate on the road properly so they don't notice the animals either."*

Year 8 Reporter: Ciara

Today's students, soft sanctions?

Children nowadays are constantly complaining about their schools, but what were schools like 30-40 years ago? Would today's children be too scared to complain? I have found out.

Punishments these days sound much less severe than back in the 1960s because punishments like the cane and the ruler have been banned. Because of this children today sometimes think their punishments are a joke, they don't mean anything. So was the smacking ban a good idea or not?

Longsands student Josh, 12, said *"I think the smacking ban was a very good idea."* He also stated that *"detentions are very effective."* so there is one person that doesn't want a detention.

Another Longsands student, James, thinks that when children are in Year 9 they should be able to choose how long their lessons should be, but would this result in children not getting good jobs purely because they are not particularly fond of a particular subject?

Longsands' own Head of RE (Mrs Boast) said that when she was at school (at Longsands) there were lessons that lasted only 35-40 minutes but also that she thought children nowadays get a better education but they are deprived of time, *"They don't spend much time at home, they are always out with their friends, doing things."* She said that schools have changed over the years.

Longsands in particular has got a lot bigger since she first came here as a student. She said that one side of the school used to be closed and, when that side opened, it was the first comprehensive school to have over 1800 students which is quite a change from her primary school which only had 16 students!

I think that most students in today's society do think that detentions are punishments to be afraid of and they know if they buckle down and get their work done they will be detention free and personally satisfied. But what about the rowdy students? Often students like this have already had many detentions and are no longer afraid of them and just want to have attention and to get in trouble as a joke. Is the answer to expel them? To deny them an education just because they are rowdy? The Principal of Longsands College thinks no. Longsands has instituted a policy that after detention comes the 'LinE' (an internal exclusion unit) in which students have to work in silence separated from their peers and if they continue to act this way they will get excluded from school for a specified time period depending on the severity of the offence. Should schools revert to the way they were 30 years ago? Think about it, how do you want your child educated?

Year 8 Reporter: Mark



Ski Trip 2007-2008



We pushed and pulled our way onto the bus and after ten minutes we had finally managed to fill all the seats and the bus jumped into life. The jolly atmosphere soon left as the sheer length of our journey sank in. We hit Dover

just as the sun began to sink below the horizon those many miles away. By then most of us had submerged into quiet conversations about small and pointless things like "let's all point out people with funny beards," which I must add was actually fun.

The first sight as we stumbled into our hotel deep in central Europe was a clean tidy room that we all knew would never look the same again. The next morning we were dragged out of bed to the sound

of a PE teacher hammering on the door. When we arrived at our first ski resort we had the disappointing surrounding of grass. Grass of all things you do not want to see on a ski holiday!! Then, as I cast my eyes over the hills dominantly looming above me, I noticed a cable pulling small bubbles of plastic up the steep inclines. To those scared of heights it must have been like staring death in the face.

As we steadily moved up the hill, small mounds of snow soon became huge metre-deep snow drifts, scarred with ski tracks. Sunlight glared down at us, forcing ski goggles and sun glasses into use. Our instructor made us walk over to a fairly flat part of the green run and put our skis on. Our ski holiday had begun!

The rest of the trip consisted of hard work but loads of fun and laughs and a great reward at the end - being able to ski!

Year 10 Student



**MAKE THE MOST OF THE LIGHT EVENINGS,
GET OFF THE SOFA AND LEARN SOMETHING NEW!**

- Cookery for Complete Beginners
- Funk Dance (11 -18 year olds)
- Beginners Chess
- Club Confidence (Improve your self esteem)
- Babysitting & Childcare (14+ years)
- Digital Film Making
- Dreamweaver Web design
- Muay Thai (Thai Boxing)
- Computers for Complete Beginners
- Dog Training
- Patchwork & Quilting circle
- Picture Framing
- Furniture Restoration
- Makaton Sign Language
- French Intermediate
- Guitar (all levels) and Singing

(All the above courses are suitable for all ages unless otherwise stated)

These evening classes and short courses start in April 2008
For further details please contact Judy on 01480 223348
 e-mail: lcac@longsands.cambs.sch.uk
 or visit our website: www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/lcac

Anti-Bullying Survey Results

"I am aware of bullying now because my Primary School and my Secondary School have taught me and I think everyone should know about bullying and how to prevent it."

"I was threatened once and the school sorted it out quickly."

Comments from students who took part in the survey.

As part of the Anti-Bullying focus across St Neots, 511 members of Year 7 and Year 9 participated in an on-line Anti-Bullying survey. Students were asked about their experiences of bullying both in and out of school, how they respond to bullying and how they felt Longsands responded to situations of bullying.

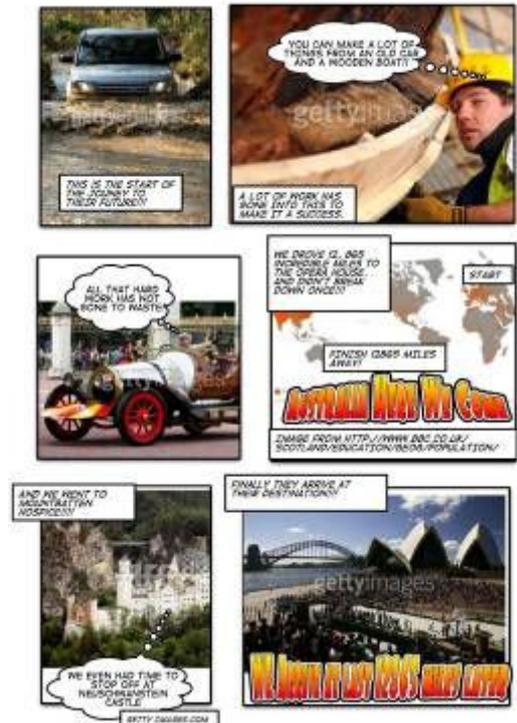
94.6% of students feel that Longsands is a safe place and 95.2% feel that the College cares for and supports students who are worried, sad or upset.

Over two thirds of students indicated that they had not experienced bullying in the past 12 months. Of those who had, only 2.4 % felt they had been bullied quite a lot. The figures include Year 7 students and in some cases their experience would have pre-dated their arrival at Longsands.

The overall view was very positive. However we are never complacent and are grateful for the suggestions that students made when they were given the opportunity to comment. Some suggestions will be influencing further projects, such as training students to be peer mentors.

Future events:

A leaflet, produced by students from across St Neots is in the final stages of production and will be distributed in the Summer Term.



A group of Year 8s from different English classes were chosen by their teachers to use Comic Life software to produce a comic strip based on a topical news story of the day.

When we first came into the library we looked at newspaper articles with Mrs West such as The Sun, The Daily Express, The Times and The Independent and decided which news article we were going to turn into a comic strip. Will, my partner, and I did our comic strip on an army hero who had lost his leg while going down the Cresta Run in Switzerland. We had to go onto Gettyimages.com to search for images as we were only allowed to use pictures from Getty and the BBC websites due to copyright regulations.

I enjoyed using Comic Life it was interesting to turn a traditional print journalism story into a comic strip. It was a new experience and I really enjoyed it. We hope that you enjoy reading our comic strips as much as we enjoyed making them!

Phoebe and Will Year 8

