



# Longsands College Newsletter

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## 'Ground Breaking' Ceremony

A special ceremony has marked the beginning of the first phase of the new Longsands Building. The event, a traditional 'first turf cutting' ceremony, took place at 10.15 am on Tuesday 5 June.

Those attending to the ceremony included: Ruth Clapham MBE Chair of Governors, Bruce King from Mouchel Parkman (Architects), Robert Eaton (Mayor of St Neots), several local, district and county councillors, contractors from Carter, pupils Maddie Eades, Aidan Jordan, Freya Cartwright and Ben Pointer.



Key Stage 3 Student Council Members at the 'Ground Breaking' ceremony.

## New Courtyard for Key Stage 4

Over the last few weeks the courtyard between the Old Gym and the New Hall has been refurbished. The garden has been dedicated to **Matthew Dean**, a Year 11 student who died tragically, earlier this year. **James Nesbitt** headed the project in Year 11. He had help and guidance from teachers such as Mr Paine and Mr Carroll.

The project took about five weeks to complete with students and teachers spending about an hour and a half each day after school working on it. The floors were swept and cleaned, benches assembled, and hanging baskets were placed below the new canopy. Mr Rowe and Mr Carroll built a raised flower bed in the centre of the courtyard, and a maple tree was given pride of place.

Key Stage 4 students will enjoy the outside space, and a bench dedicated to **Matt** is to

be placed at the back of the garden in front of a graffiti board designed by **Ben Platt**. The students involved in the project include: **James Nesbitt, William Hughes, Amelia Taverna, Conor Murphy, Ben Platt, Mabel Dowman, Naomi King, Cheyenne Betts, Edward Dillon, David Durman and Tilly Wood.**

Amelia Taverna  
Conor Murphy  
Ben Platt

The courtyard will be ready for use after half term and will be used by Years 10 and 11. It will also benefit other students as it will be used at break and lunch times, with the result that other areas will be less crowded. *"The courtyard will be useful to students in Key Stage 4 – designed by students for students. It will be exciting to see ideas realised,"* Mr Rowe commented.

Isobel Bruning

## Arts Week

Students across College will be taking part in 'Arts Week' in July. Students will be able to participate in many different art forms during this time. These include, media arts, Taiko drumming, an Art Exhibition and Musical Soiree. Some students will be working alongside Mrs Koncewicz. At the end of the project, a final show will showcase some of the achievements made during 'Arts Week'. *"It [the show] will be great fun, especially for the Dance and Drama students participating and those watching the show!"* commented Mrs Koncewicz.

Jenna Lewis

## Ely Trip

All the form groups from Year 7 are going to visit Ely on the 14 or 15 June. Students will look at a variety of different aspects for Geography and History. Many students are looking forward to the visit. **Antonia Usher** said; *"It is going to be exciting, and we will be able to use the things we learn back at school."*

Rebecca Howlett

## PE News

Mr Bircham has recently visited local primary schools. He has been teaching Physical Education alongside the classroom teachers in order to offer specialist knowledge to students in primary schools. All the schools that he visited are feeder schools to Longsands, so hopefully the primary pupils will be able to build on this knowledge when they come to Longsands. One Year 4 pupil at Little Paxton Primary School commented; *"I had lots of fun and learned a lot!"*

Gemma Bleakley

## District Champions



Year 7 girls are now the District Champions in both hockey and netball! The Year 7 netball squad had to play against three teams: St Ivo, Hinchingsbrooke and St Peters. They were hard to beat especially as time ticked on and our teams started to get tired.

The hockey match was just as challenging. Many of the teams were fierce opponents who of course wanted to win! The Longsands team had to concentrate hard and keep their eyes on the game. After two exciting games, we won both tournaments! It was a great success and the teams would like to thank Ms O'Kelly and Mrs Watts for their support.

Anna Pratt  
Molly Bygraves

### Zoning

Due to building works it has been necessary to move the play areas. The top field (beyond the long-jump) will be available for KS4 and the area from the long-jump pit to the mound will be available for KS3.

## Tesco Vouchers

Tesco has now finished handing out the "Computers for Schools" vouchers, and we have about another four weeks to collect them all in. Our target is to collect enough vouchers for three computers - a total of 41,100. So far you have sent in enough for two computers. As the scheme approaches its end, please send in any remaining vouchers. Even if we don't succeed in getting the 13,000 or so we need, whatever is sent in between now and 21 June can be 'banked' and added to whatever we collect next year. After the end of June, vouchers counted will be added to next year's collection.

## Sainsbury's Voucher Collection

This is also coming to an end soon. We never collect as many vouchers as from Tesco, due to store location, but we still get valuable sports equipment from the Sainsbury's scheme, so any vouchers, please send them in by the end of June to make them count.

## Student Council

Longsands College Student Council attended a training course held at Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre on Friday 30 March.

The course, entitled 'Improving your Student Council', focussed on some of the key skills needed to support effective student councils. The students discussed teamwork and how to work well together. They brainstormed ideas of how to raise awareness of the Student Council in school. The school website is one way of doing this and it will soon be up to date with what the council have been doing and current projects.

The Student Council members discussed what they could actively do for the school.

The students were given advice on how to run a meeting and how to speak effectively. They had a meeting and then evaluated it.

The day was a success and the Student Council left the Conference Centre with a lot of good ideas for raising its profile and being effective in the school.

Freya Cartwright

## Safety and Ball Games

At this time of year, Huntingdonshire District Council receives many complaints about ball games being played inconsiderately causing distress and alarm to residents in the surrounding areas.

The council has issued advice as follows:

The community safety team at HDC does not consider playing ball games anti-social. Indeed it wishes to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle for all members of the community.

The local area has many open green areas that may seem to be an ideal venue for a game. By playing games considerately all members of the community can co-exist safely.

Please consider these simple rules:

- avoid playing ball games in the street or in an area where there are moving vehicles;
- if you're having a match, head to the park;
- be aware of your own safety and the safety of others;
- talk to your neighbours and parents and agree on a time and a place for your games;
- keep the noise and the ball down - do not let your game become anti-social;
- respect 'no ball games' and 'considerate use' signs.

Do have fun, but please also show consideration for others.

# Overhills Primary School



Congratulations to Overhills Primary School's Year 5 & 6s who entered the Junior Priorities writing competition. The work below is by two pupils from Overhills who will be joining us at Longsands in September 2007 and 2008 respectively.

## Chicks at Overhills!

Overhills school had a wonderful thing happen to them the week of SATs. I bet you are all wondering what it was aren't you?

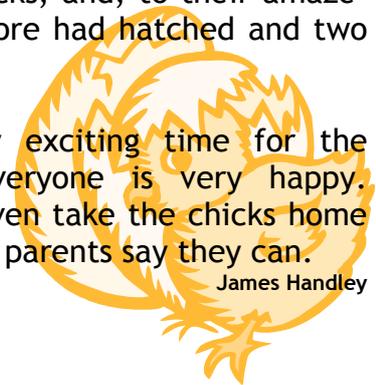
Well, the infants (Years Reception, 1 and 2) were given chicken eggs and after 3-4 days they started to hatch! It was a very exciting time. They hatched at around 2.45 pm on a Tuesday afternoon. The Head Teacher of the school (Mrs. Light) walked into assembly and said, 'I have some exciting news.' I bet you could guess what all the Year 6s were hoping she would say - that SATs were cancelled, but, unfortunately for

them, it was that one of the chicks was hatching.

The next day, two young students who were on phone duty decided to have a look at the chicks, and, to their amazement, three more had hatched and two were pipping.

It was a very exciting time for the school and everyone is very happy. Children can even take the chicks home to keep if their parents say they can.

James Handley



## Rise to the Challenge

On Monday 21 May, Overhills Primary School took part in the Sports Connections Rise to the Challenge.

Junior (a player from Tottenham) told us in assembly that we were going to take part in a challenge to see how fast we could kick a football. That night we were given a sponsor form to take home. We had to collect money for the charities Childline, Tsunami Appeal, NSPCC and Children in Need.

Junior brought in a big inflatable goal which was like a bouncy castle. Everyone was very surprised when they saw it. First in were Rowan Class. Junior said, 'This class can make the most noise, can't they?' We each had three

turns at shooting. Most people scored at over 30mph and everyone's speed of shot was more than 10mph - even Mrs. Parsons, our teacher! Then it was Oak Class, who were also very noisy. They had three goes too. Then it was Ash Class who didn't make as much noise as us because they are smaller, and, in addition, their kicks were not as fast as ours. At the end, Junior said we would all get a certificate and the fastest boy and girl in each class would receive a medal.

Overall, the day was great fun for the whole school. I hope we can do it again.

Jonathan Lister