



Longsands College Newsletter

Vol 6

Issue 1

September 2007

From the Principal

I hope you will find this first newsletter of the new academic year interesting and informative. We are again planning to have seven editions: this one, and one immediately before or after each half term or holiday break. Our aim is to keep you informed about developments in the College and to celebrate students' work and achievement.

This summer saw the most consistently outstanding set of examination results the College has ever enjoyed. Leading the way were Year 9 (now Year 10) whose performance across the national tests in English, Mathematics and Science reflected a year of co-ordinated and highly focused effort on the part of students and staff. The same year group was also the first at Longsands to participate in national tests in Information Technology - here, too, the outcomes were very positive, particularly at level 5 and above.

The results which receive considerable public attention are the GCSEs and A Levels. Although the proportion of students gaining 5 A*-G grades was down slightly on the previous year, the proportion gaining 5A*-C grades (often, in fact, considerably more than 5 such grades) rose to 81%. Over 99% of students left with at least one qualification. These are truly remarkable figures and show the enormous progress made by the year group.

Students in Year 13 followed up their GCSE success of two years ago with a further, record-breaking performance at A Level. The proportion of A-C grades was up from last year's 71.8% to 76.3%; similarly, A and B grades rose from 43.4% to 49.9%. Again, these represent new levels of achievement for the College.

Behind the overall figures lie many stories of personal effort and overcoming of obstacles. What helps make Longsands special is the range and depth of support

students give to each other and receive from parents and staff. Thank you to everyone involved.

There is much to look forward to in the new college year. Our main construction project is now well underway, with the outline of the new building taking shape as each girder is lifted into place. Our new caterers (ABM) have made an impressive start, and there is now even less reason for students to go off site at lunchtimes. We have also zoned the College more clearly, with designated areas for eating, quiet socialising and active games such as football. A new hard surface play area will be opened soon.

Finally, may I draw your attention to the enclosed consultation concerning the Governing Body's Discipline Policy. We consulted parents about the first version of this document some three years ago. It has now been updated and is reissued as a draft in accordance with recent legislation. The governing body would welcome comment from parents, students and staff.

This is bound to be a very busy and demanding year. In addition to the developments set out in the *College Improvement Plan* that are "home grown", we shall also be responding to considerable change at national level in the curriculum. The confidence to tackle such an agenda depends in part on a bedrock of values that are secure, and these are set out in the College's *Statement of Ethos and Aims*. It seems appropriate at the start of the academic year to remind ourselves of the *Statement* (please see [page 4](#)) and to reaffirm determination to hold true to our core beliefs and purpose.

Robert Whatmough
Principal

Student Amongst Top Ten!

Congratulations to **Matthew Usher**, one of last year's Year 13s, who achieved one of the highest scores for A Level Media: Communication and Production according to Edexcel, one of the UK's largest awarding bodies.

Matthew sat the exam earlier in the summer and the results issued in August show that out of 567 candidates, **Matthew** achieved one of the highest overall marks.

Jerry Jarvis, Edexcel's managing director, said: "*This is a tremendous achievement and testament to the hard work students put into preparing for their examinations. We send our congratulations to Matthew.*"

Academic Planning day

Building on the success of previous Academic Planning Days, we will be holding this event again on Thursday 22 November. Some interviews will also take place on Tuesday 20 November. Thursday 22 November will be a non-teaching day for all students. Students will have an appointment with their form tutor to discuss their progress so far this year and set targets for the rest of the Academic Year. In addition, a new development means that interviews will also focus on issues specific to students' year group. Parents will be invited to attend their child's interview. A letter outlining more details of the day will be sent out later this month. This is a valuable opportunity for students to discuss their learning and to set new goals. We look forward to your support.



Lunch Menu

Pasta of the Day **£1.50**
 Main Meal, Potatoes and Veg **£1.50**
 Panini from **£1.00**
 Hot Wraps **£1.50**
 Oven Jacket Wedges **65p**
 Pizza Wedge from **75p**
 Potato Patties (4) **60p**
 Salad Bar— 100g pot **55p**
 Salad Bar—200g pot **95p**
 Potato Dish of the Day **30p**
 Vegetable of the Day/
 Baked beans **35p**



New Caterers

ABM have been appointed as the College caterers. Feedback from students from the first week has been very positive.

It is hoped that more students will opt to stay in College and take advantage of the large variety of locally-sourced food on offer.

A full menu is available for your perusal on the College website.

Catering Assistants Required (Term-time only)

Experience preferred, although full training will be given. If you would like to be part of the team and help provide healthy school lunches to over 1500 students, please call Donna or Angie on 01480 223334

Cambridgeshire Swimming Championships

On Wednesday 4 July, five students competed in the Cambridgeshire Schools Championships. All five swimmers achieved great success in their individual races, which resulted in Longsands being crowned the Cambridgeshire Schools Champions. Some of the team will now go forward to represent Cambridgeshire in the regional round of the competition.

Congratulations to all the students involved: **Ashley Bygraves, Christian Stokes, Will Nicholls, Danny Sadler and Molly Bygraves.**

Learning Support

The Department offers several levels of basic skill and in-class support, including a lunch-time activity and homework club. There are approximately 25 Teaching Assistants, working across the curriculum.

All new Year 7s are screened for reading and spelling skills. If you have concerns about your child's learning needs, please contact Mrs Brodie, the SENCo, by letter, telephone or e-mail. Mrs Brodie attends all Key Stage 3 and 4 Parents' Evenings and is usually able to see parents without an appointment.

Stylish Success

Four students from the Year11 IFP Course entered the 'Put-up' section of Huntingdon Regional College's Hairdressing Department Competition. They were: **Jade Evans** with **Jade Wilkinson** as her model and **Millie Taylor** with **Amy Bassinder** as her model. It was an exciting but daunting experience, as the girls were being marked as they worked by representatives from hair-care giant Wella and from local salons. They were also competing against students one or two years above them. Despite this, they kept their cool and **Jade Evans** was awarded Second Prize!

Mrs Brodie

Sports Fixtures Autumn Term 2007

Fixtures are subject to change. Please ensure your son/daughter keeps up to date with any changes. Fixtures will start at 4.30pm (approx) and finish at 5.30pm at the venue; return times will vary, but will always be written on the team sheet.

Week	Date	Opponents	Age and Sport	Venue
2	Wednesday 12 September	St Peter's	Years 10,12,13 Rugby	St Peter's
3	Wednesday 19 September	Hinchingbrooke/ St Ivo/ St Neots	Years 7,11 Netball 8,9 Hockey	Hinchingbrooke
	Thursday 20 September	Hinchingbrooke	Years 7,8,9,10,11 Rugby	Home/Away
4	Wednesday 26 September	St Ivo/ Sawtry/ St Peter's	Years 7,8,9,11 Netball /Hockey	St Ivo
	Thursday 27 September	St Ivo	Years 7,8,9,10,11 Rugby	Home/Away
5	Wednesday 3 October	Hinchingbrooke / St Peter's/ Sawtry	Years 7,11 Netball 8,9, Hockey	Hinchingbrooke
	Thursday 4 October	Sawtry	Years 7,8,9,11 Rugby	Home
6	Tuesday 9 October	Inter Form	Years 7,8 Rugby /Hockey	Longsands
	Wednesday 10 October	Inter Form	Years 9/10 Rugby /Hockey	Longsands
	Wednesday 10 October	District Tournament	Year 7 Netball /Year 8 Hockey	Hinchingbrooke
	Thursday 11 October	St Peter's	Years 7,8,9,10,11 Rugby	Home/Away
7	Wednesday 17 October	District Tournament	Year 9 Hockey / Year 11 Netball	Hinchingbrooke
	Thursday 18 October	Ramsey	Years 7,8,9,10,11 Rugby	Home/Away
9	Saturday 3 November	District Tournament	Year 9 Rugby	Hinchingbrooke
10	Saturday 10 November	District Tournament	Years 8 Rugby	Hinchingbrooke
11	Wednesday 14 November	District Tournament	Year 10 Netball	St Ivo
	Thursday 15 November	District Tournament	Year 11 Rugby	Longsands
	Saturday 17 November	District Tournament	Year 7 Rugby	Hinchingbrooke
12	Saturday 24 November	District Tournament	Year 10 Rugby	Hinchingbrooke
13	Wednesday 28 November	District Tournament	Year 10 Netball	St Ivo
	Wednesday 28 November	District Tournament	Years 10/11 Basketball	St Ivo
	Friday 30 November	College Trial	Years 7,8,9,10,11 Cross Country	Longsands
14	Wednesday 5 December	District Tournament	Years 7,8,9,10,11 Cross Country	Kimbolton
15	Wednesday 12 December	District Tournament	Year 9 Basketball	St Ivo

Longsands College: Ethos and Aims

Longsands provides a safe and supportive environment founded on high expectations, mutual respect and enjoyment of learning.

We offer opportunities for every student to experience success and achieve their full potential.

We value care and consideration for others, creativity, independence and determination.

Working in partnership with parents and the wider community, we aim to:

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- ◆ provide a curriculum and other learning experiences that meet the needs of all students and promote high standards;
 - ◆ encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and behaviour;
 - ◆ develop students' understanding of their rights and responsibilities as active citizens within the school and community;
 - ◆ enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed in adult life;
 - ◆ develop students' moral, spiritual and cultural understanding.

Have your say on local mental health services!

One in four people will experience a mental health problem at some time in their life. Even if you are not affected, someone close to you may be. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust is in the process of applying to become a Foundation Trust and would like you, your family and friends to sign up as members.

The Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust provides mental health services for adults, older people, children and people with a learning disability.

The Trust is asking local people to attend their public meetings to hear about their proposals for improving local mental health and related services in the local area. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and share your views and ideas about the proposals and to join up as a member of the Trust.

For further information and to register an interest, go to: www.cambs.nhs.uk or telephone the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership: 01480 398500.

Sports Equipment for Schools

Tesco have recently started handing out their green Sports Equipment for Schools vouchers. This is the third year of this promotion; over the last two years, the PE Department has received rugby equipment, over 100 badminton rackets, and many boxes of shuttlecocks.

As in previous years, the collection box is located in the library. When you are asked if you are collecting the vouchers, please say yes and send them in to us as soon as possible. Please don't keep them all until the end of the scheme (unless you send them in in rubber-banded bundles of 100), as counting them is a mammoth task.

Thank you once again for your help.

Mr Hynes

Exam Invigilation

We have vacancies in our invigilation team. If you are interested in being an invigilator, please contact:
Mrs Carpenter, 01480 353535 ext. 234.