



# Longsands College Newsletter

www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

## From the Executive Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter for the academic year 2010 – 2011. As in previous years, we intend to go to print on seven occasions: at the start of the autumn term (this edition) and then once more before each half term or holiday. Our aim is to update you about students' activities and broader developments in the College.

As you know, September sees the launch of the federation between Longsands and St Neots Community College. After spending so long discussing what such a federation could involve, it is a pleasure actually to get started. Change will not happen overnight but the process of building collaboratively on existing strengths to reach new levels of student involvement and achievement is underway.

There are still some myths about what 'federation' will mean – this is one reason why 'Learning Partnership' is a far better title. Enclosed with this newsletter is a leaflet of information that is intended to help dispel the myths and set out more positively what we are

about. I hope that every student and parent will at least dip into the information provided, which also covers aspects of our in-College student support structure from this September.

Some of our examination results this summer were outstanding. The proportion of students gaining 5A\*-C grades including English and Mathematics rose to a new record of 67%. (Unfortunately, the figure we gave the press on results day itself was below that because of a later examination board adjustment to the published grades. Similarly, the proportion gaining 5A\*-C overall was 79.2% and not 78.1%.)

At AS Level, the proportion of students obtaining 3 or more A/B grades; 3 or more A-C grades; 1 or more A-C grades were all up on the equivalent figure for 2009. Analysis of the results at the level of detail that can inform students' work in Year 13 is a current priority.

Our A Level candidates also performed well as a Year Group. The overall pass rate was

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This term at Longsands...



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## Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening for parents considering Longsands as the secondary school for their son/daughter is on Tuesday 19 October 2010. Many students from across the College will be returning in the evening to assist in subject areas and act as guides.

Timings of the day will be adjusted as follows:

1 pm	:	lunch available and formal end of school
1.20 pm	:	buses arrive
1.30 pm	:	buses depart
1.30 – 3.30 pm	:	study facilities available
5.45 pm	:	student helpers in position
6.15 pm	:	start of Open Evening
8.30 pm	:	end of Open Evening.

The College's Published Admission Number (the limit of its intake) is 290 students.

## Academic Planning Day - Advanced Notice

Longsands' annual Academic Planning Day will be taking place on **Thursday 25 November**. Some interviews will also take place on **Tuesday 23 November**. Thursday 25 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. Students will reflect on previous targets and set new ones for the rest of the Academic Year. 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.



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## Key Policies

Please note that copies of College policies that may be of particular interest to parents are available via our website: [www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk)

Please follow the links for Parent Info at the top of the Home page.

Documents that can be downloaded include policies on: Mobile Phones; Discipline; Use of Images.

## Science News

At the end of last term, a few students in Year 10 were chosen to go on a Gifted and Talented Forensics Course at the University Of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich. The course lasted for 3 days and took place during the summer holidays. Whilst there, the students took part in activities such as pathology work, a 'crime in the media' workshop and even a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) remake, before giving a final presentation to parents (where prizes were awarded). Everyone who attended said it was an interesting and enjoyable experience.

In August 2010, **Gavin Kirby** went on a week-long Sutton Trust summer school at Cambridge University for Chemistry and stayed in Christ's College. During this week, students covered first year undergraduate material with a practical, and experienced college life with a formal dinner at the end of the week. **Gavin** said: "This week at Cambridge University was a great opportunity to experience college life and to see the exciting challenge of a Chemistry degree. We looked at Orbitals, carbon functional group level and Schrödinger's equation with a practical, which included titrations and re-crystallisation."

Other students attending exciting residential events for budding scientists at prestigious universities across the UK were:

Year 10 Salters Chemistry Camps:

**Gheorgie Lang** (Nottingham University)

**Rebecca Thomas** (Leeds University)

Year 10 UEA Forensic Science Residential: **Mary Lundie**, **Maddie Eades**, **Oliver Brittain**, **Kara Wildber**

Year 12 Sutton Trust Cambridge University (Chemistry):

**Gavin Kirby**.

Congratulations to last year's Year 13s who have secured places at university to continue their science studies.

**Amy Henderson**, **Heather Hiles** and **Elaine McFarlane** – who are reading medicine at university this year; **Danny Tyler**, who is reading dentistry and **Yasmin Hall** (2009) who starts a degree in veterinary medicine this academic year.

Kara Wildber & Gavin Kirby



## Helping Heroes

9FJW (Aspen), have managed to raise £236.71 for their charity 'Help for Heroes', bringing our grand total over two years to £436.85. During the spring term last year, some of the boys in the form completed a two lap run around Priory Park, raising over £100. Later in the term, two girls from the form, Summer Baxter and Phoebe Ireland, raised over £50 just from collecting money around school. To do this, they tied one arm up for a day, to imagine what it would be like for a

wounded soldier to manage doing everyday tasks. Also, the whole form organised a cake stall. This raised over £50.

Summer Baxter & Phoebe Ireland

## Building Update

The new changing pavilion and all-weather pitches have progressed well over the summer break. The steel frame is now complete and the outline of the new multi-purpose space is clearly visible. The ground floor concrete slab has been cast and both internal and external brickwork and internal block work are currently being constructed. Meanwhile, all the excavations to the all-weather pitch have been carried out and the new sub-base is being laid. Work remains on programme and the contractors are working hard to minimise the disruption on site.

**Nathan Swift** (Associate Director)  
Saunders Boston  
Chartered Architects

## The Business Department has a home!

The exciting news from the Business Department is that all teachers are now located in F Block. The suite of rooms are all wireless networked and two of the rooms have been equipped with computers. The changes will be a great benefit to all students and staff working in the Business and Enterprise area.

Mr Seery (Head of Business and Enterprise) is delighted with the move and is looking forward to the exciting possibilities opened up by the developments. He expressed his thanks to Mrs Christie, Mr Chapman, Mr Hopkins and their teams for their hard work through the summer break.

# PE Trip to South Africa

Despite all the BBC coverage of the 2010 World Cup none of us were prepared for what we would see on our own visit to the 'Rainbow Nation'. After spotting actor Hugh Grant at the airport and a sleepless eleven-hour flight, we had our first glances of Africa. Straight off the plane and to Soweto. Nothing could have woken us up more than that! Nothing could have moved us more than seeing children ten times happier than ourselves, yet living in one-roomed houses with sewage water running past the 'garden'. What a first day. The trip progressed with some disappointing yet inspirational sporting performances as the South Africans overwhelmed us with their team spirit and their ferocity on the pitch, which was then followed by a kind hearted and welcoming nature afterwards - even if they did try to convince us that lions roamed the streets and that they kept giraffes as pets! After an elephant ride and elephant kisses we were in Rustenburg, marched off the bus and handed straight over to South African families who welcomed us into their homes.

The next day we played them at hockey and rugby and at last the boys gained the victory they had wanted so much. Although the girls had another loss, the passion and attitude shown was a victory enough. The girls also played netball but considering their 15 year old goal shooter was 6ft 3 we didn't stand much of a chance! The next day was a tearful goodbye to the families and new friends as we moved on to the next part of the tour - the next few days took on a more traditional tourist feel, with trips to a water park and a fascinating safari. Although relaxing, Mr Marmion did wake people up at 7.30 am for a swim in the pool, which was very refreshing, we'd have been amazed if the temperature was more than 10 degrees! Then - our last games. The scores

did not go in Longsands' favour but the transformation from the first games to the last showed a positive effort and attitude from everyone.

After a sad yet unforgettable last night sitting around the camp fire singing, we packed up and left for Johannesburg. A quick stop at a local market, followed by intense bartering - some people got some great deals while others did not fare quite so well! The final stop was a theme park where the group was split into the brave and daring, and those who just stood and took photos. Families and friends welcomed us back and even though everyone was pleased to see their loved ones there wasn't a single person who didn't want to return to Africa. It was only 10 days but they were memorable, with new experiences for all, new friendships, old friendships blossoming but most importantly an astoundingly optimistic atmosphere. The teachers were wonderful and we cannot thank them enough but we mainly have ourselves to thank for the trip of a lifetime that I will be reminded of every time I hear the words 'Swing low, sweet chariot.'



Laura Airey

## Emergency Closure

We expect to operate similar procedures to last year for emergency closures, eg as a result of adverse weather conditions. While we have established the possibility of contacting parents by email or text message, this may only be possible if particular staff can get into College. For that reason, local radio is likely to be the principal means of communication. We may also use the front page of our website.

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 are usually not the only determining factor.

These are the key points from previous issued advice:

### Emergency Closure Before School

If the College is to be closed, we inform the local radio station at the earliest opportunity. Our main line of communication will be through Radio Cambridgeshire on 96.0 FM.

### Closure During the Day

**It is essential that each student knows what she or he is to do if the College has to close suddenly 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.

**Please could every parent discuss with their son or daughter what you wish them to do in the kind of circumstances outlined above.**

97%. The proportion of A-C grades (69%) was down slightly on last year's 72% but this was offset by an increase in the proportion of grades B and above – up from 38% to 42%. Candidates in 27 of the 33 subjects achieved a 100% pass rate. A\* grades were obtained in eleven subjects overall.

In line with national reports, there were cases of universities rejecting candidates in a manner that would not have happened even last year. However, most of our students secured places at either their chosen destination or an acceptable alternative. Congratulations go to all students whose performance reflected hard work and detailed revision throughout the year. We were also delighted that for the first time in a single year, *two* Longsands students - Niamh Cassidy and Jack Austin – secured places at Oxford.

This summer's results have again underlined the successful partnership of students and staff and the academic strength of the College.

There is much to look forward to in this new school year. For example, we are looking forward to the new PE/ Sports facility that is currently under construction at the front of the College.



Robert Whatmough  
Executive Principal  
The Longsands Learning Partnership

### Students' Personal Belongings/ Entertainment Equipment

Students are responsible for their personal belongings. Expensive items, including large sums of money or personal entertainment equipment, should not be brought into College. Mobile phones must be switched off during the College day and are brought in at the student's/family's own risk. Personal items are not covered by our insurance. Responsibility for them rests solely with the owner.

## Longsands at 50!

Officially opened on 21st March 1961, Longsands celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. To celebrate, over the coming months, students will all be involved in finding out about the last 50 years of Longsands, St Neots and the world. To enable this to happen we need your help. If you have any memorabilia of life at Longsands over the past 50 years that you could share with us, whether it is a personal memory in an email, documentation such as sports day programmes, drama productions, even old school reports, or parts of old school uniform, we would gratefully receive them. With your permission these would be used by our students in their work. At the end we would return everything to you. You should recently have received a more detailed letter about this project from the history department.

## Extra Curricular PE Activities Autumn Term 2010

		Lunch Time – 1.35 pm	After College
<b>Monday</b>	New Gym	Gymnastics - All Yrs – Miss Hoult	Hockey – All Yrs – Miss Hingle, Miss Hoult & Mrs Veitch Rugby - Yrs 7 – 10 Mr Simpson & Mr Marmion
	Sports Hall	Sixth Form 5-a-Side – Mr Wayman	
	Old Gym	GCSE Trampoline – Miss Hingle	
	B6	Speed Stacking – Yr 7 - Mr Nunnery	
<b>Tuesday</b>	New Gym	Dodge Ball – KS4 – Mr Twiss	
	Sports Hall	Girls' Basketball – KS3 – Mrs Veitch	
	Old Gym	Table Tennis - KS3 – Mr Ward	
	Field	Rugby - Yr 7 – Mr Marmion	
<b>Wednesday</b>	New Gym	Volleyball – KS4 – Mr Watts	Trampoline – KS3 – Mr Simpson Badminton – Mr Marmion Yr 11 Rugby – Mr Watts Girls' Fixtures – Miss Hingle, Miss Smith & Miss Hoult
	Sports Hall	Kwik Cricket - KS3 – Mr Simpson	
	Field	Frisbee – Yrs 7, 8 – Mr Wong	
<b>Thursday</b>	Outside Courts	Hockey – KS4 – Miss Smith	
	New Gym	Handball - KS3 - Mr Watts	Boys' Fixtures Netball - All Years - Miss Hingle, Miss Smith & Miss Hoult
	Sports Hall	Basketball – KS3 – Mr Marmion/Mr Simpson	
	Old Gym	Table Tennis - KS4 – Miss Hingle	
<b>Friday</b>	G11	Speed Stacking – KS3 – Mrs Marsh	
	New Gym	Basketball – Mr Lutey	
	Sports Hall	Sixth Form Activities – Mr Watts	
	Old Gym	Table Tennis – Sixth Form – Mr Makamba	
	Field	Girls' Football - Yrs 7, 8 – Miss Hingle	

## Cycle Safety

We are very pleased that so many of our students are cycling to and from College. Our recent cycle safety campaign stressed that students have a responsibility to ensure their own safety on journeys from and to home. Therefore, as a minimum requirement, students must:

- wear a cycle helmet;
- Be Seen Be Safe – wear reflective clothing and/or reflective strips;
- uphold basic requirements for safe and legal cycling.