



Longsands College Newsletter



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BBC Broadcast from Longsands

Earlier this month, sixth form students at Longsands took part in News Day 24. In a series of live broadcasts, they shared their experiences with students in a university in Tehran and a school in the United States. BBC audiences worldwide watched the discussion via News 24 and BBC World. The day's broadcasting was part of the BBC project *Generation Next*, which explores the world through the eyes of the next generation.

At the same time, Year 8 pupils at the College worked as BBC News School Reporters. They jumped at the opportunity to cover the event, and made two short news reports in which they interviewed some of the professionals from the BBC and students working on the *Generation Next* project at the College.

The Year 8s started the day watching the Year 12s and 13s go live on News 24. They then got down to some serious planning with BBC School report producer Ros Smith. The group worked on planning their story boards and their interviews, considering the types of shots that they wanted to use and resources they would need and arranging interviews through BBC *Generation Next* Producer Michael O'Connor.

First to be interviewed by Jethro (Year 8 School Reporter) was News 24 Special Correspondent Philippa Thomas, with Year 8 reporter Tom on camera. Meanwhile, Tom and Michael managed to get an interview with Assistant Principal Mr Adams. Bianca, Nicole, Kirstie and Lara (also Year 8) spoke to Amy, a Sixth former, to find out how the day had been for her and during their interview with Philippa tried out new camera interview techniques.

All the students involved enjoyed the day's activities. Nicole thought it was really good

learning how to use the cameras and asking the questions, while Tom said *'I've learned a lot and enjoyed myself at the same time'*.

Michael thought it had *'all been really good fun'* and his advice to other school reporters was that it is *'important to plan and use a storyboard to order your ideas'* and just *'try your best'*, while Kirstie's tip was to *'record lots of different views because you don't want to be perceived as biased'*.

The visit provided a great opportunity for pupils and Sixth Formers at the College. It has given students the an insight into how BBC news reports are produced. The students now have the confidence and opportunity to create their own news reports, to the degree that they will now become pupil specialists to work with small groups of students for the School Report News Day on March 22nd.

Assistant Principal, Mr Adams commented : *'The day has promoted positive links between Longsands, the industry and in particular the BBC. Students have been able to work with industry professionals on real live projects.'*

For further information:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/schoolreport/6217720.stm>



Longsands students interviewed live by BBC Special Correspondent Philippa Thomas

Extended Schools : What do Parents Want?

- Do you need 'wraparound' childcare for your son or daughter?
- Are you interested in programmes specifically designed to help parents?
- Are there other ways in which parents and young people could be supported by services developed on site?

Please spend a few minutes completing the St Neots Schools Forum questionnaire. You can do this by:

- visiting the College website www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk and following the Parent Information link to the St Neots Schools Forum questionnaire.

OR

- you can ask your son or daughter to pick up a paper version of the survey from Admin.

Please help us to discover the extended services you would find of real assistance.

Please see page 6 for an article written by Rachel Green, who is the Extended Schools Co-ordinator for the St Neots locality.

End of Term Arrangements:

Tuesday 19 December
Lessons finish 1.10 pm
Buses depart 1.25 pm.

Please turn to the final page for the Principal's letter.

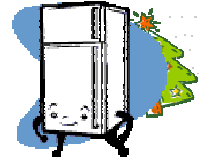
For radio interviews from the News Group: www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/oldnews.htm

News from the Upper School



Year 11 students were photographed last month, firstly for their 16+ photo cards and again for their individual, form and year group photos. The entire year group were well behaved and looked wonderful over these two days. The photos have arrived this week and will be distributed shortly.

In November, the Key Stage 4 team wrote to all parents with details of coursework deadlines for pupils in every subject in Years 10 & 11. Parents also received a fridge magnet and we hope this will be used to display this essential information in the home to allow pupils and parents/carers to discuss coursework, deadlines etc.



Finally, I would like to congratulate all pupils in Key Stage 4 for their hard work throughout this term. Coursework club has been very well attended; the Student Voice members have begun to design the courtyards; the graffiti project was a great success; the yearbook team continues to work hard and we are all embarking on the planning of the 2007 prom already!

Have a great Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2007.



Mr David
(Head of 14-16)

Year 11 Duty Team

Right: Year 11 Duty Team members. Thirty-six Year 11 students have volunteered to help manage the Year 11 social areas.



This means that they will report back to the KS4 team about any issues which arise during break and lunchtimes.

Senior Maths Challenge

On 9 November, seventeen students from Years 12 & 13 took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. **Emily Barton** gained a bronze certificate, **Tommy Liu** and **Graham Bowen** received silver certificates and **James Olding** won a Gold award. He scored so highly that he has been invited to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad 1st round. Congratulations to all who took part and good luck to James in the Olympiad.

Miss Gardner



Student Voice Graffiti Project

The Key stage 4 Student Voice designed an idea and helped local artist Jonny Barton produce a work of art in the Key Stage 4 area. Below is a report from two members of the Student Voice:

"At the start of Autumn half term, we were invited to do some graffiti work in the KS4 area. As student voice members, we met up and had a meeting to decide what to put on the wall. We finally chose to have different types of people with different interests and images. This is to show that we are all different but we are all people. Quotes from inspirational leaders also filled the gaps between the images on the wall.

We spent a day learning how to spray for different effects and how far away you need to be. There were some mistakes and we messed up, but there wasn't anything that the graffiti man (Jonny) couldn't fix! On the whole it was a good day and we really enjoyed designing and making the wall look good," commented **Sarah McPaul & Joey Sandling** (Year 10).



The members of the Student Voice were an asset to the school and worked in a mature and creative manner.



National Enterprise Week

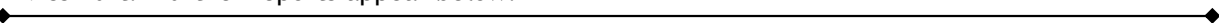
Enterprise Week is an annual, UK-wide week of activities inspiring people in their teens and twenties to be enterprising - to turn ideas into something real. Over 1200 students from Years 7 to 10 and the sixth form took part in a range of activities.

The week started off with the Year 10s taking part in the 'Make Your Mark Challenge'. Of the 50 teams taking part in the morning the best 10 presented their ideas to the Principal and Ms Matthews - the team who developed a luxury toilet were the winners.



On Tuesday, there was a session for year 8 and 9 girls to fit in with Women in Enterprise Day. On Wednesday, the whole of Year 8 took part in a variety of creative/problem solving and team working activities. Thursday saw Maple school from Year 9 building igloos. The week was rounded off with Year 7 and the sixth form taking part in Speed Networking.

Many thanks to all of the colleagues who helped to make the week a success and especially to Miss Burt. Further reports appear below.



On Tuesday 14 November, a group of students in Years 8 and 9 went to the Wyboston Lakes Centre to take part in an Enterprise activity. When we arrived we entered a room and were placed into groups of 6, three Year 8s and three Year 9s.

The company running the activity, BoomBizz, try to give young people a taste of running their own company.

Firstly, the leader explained what we would be doing. The aim was to pick a type of company and give each of our team mates a job role. These roles included: Operator 1, 2, 3 and 4, financier and more. Different types of company had to make a different product. There were three parts to the task, five one-minute intervals with 30 seconds' selling and buying time.

another amount of products to make. If they were all perfect, we would get a higher order from the customer but, if one or more weren't perfect, our order would drop. After five one-minute intervals, the remaining stock was taken away, and we drew our success on the charts on the wall. We then had the choice to improve how we worked. Most groups chose to train staff, but some chose to improve the factory.

We did the same again, but this time we could not choose the same improvements as the first time. Most groups' profits and customer satisfaction improved as the 'staff' knew how to make their products efficiently. Finally, after repeating this once more, our profits and losses were calculated and the winner was found. The winners received a BoomBizz bag each.

Our products had to be perfect. Each time, we had

Laura Kane & Megan Pease



I enjoyed the activities because you really had to think and combine your ideas for what you can do with a rubber glove and paperclip! I also liked it when we were blindfolded and we had to put each other in height order because we had to work as a TEAM to get each other in the right order.

I think I understood what we had to cover... I found out a lot of uses for items that are rarely used. I felt very creative and we came up with very extreme ideas.

I learnt to relax a little and have fun and we all had more confidence and we worked well as a team.

I would love to do something like this again because it's nice to have a change in lessons and we got on with the work and had a laugh.



Shanice Muir

Business Enterprise Day

On Monday 13 November, all year 10s took part in the 'Make Your Mark' challenge for 4 hours of the school day. In our forms and groups of 4, 5 or 6, we had to produce a product to do with having fun.

In the first hour we all had to come up with different ideas and finally agree on one of them. In the second hour we discussed finances, how much our product would cost to make. Some groups went down to computer rooms to research information about prices to do with their product. In the third lesson, we learned about competition, the market our product would be in, and compared their prices to ours. In the fourth lesson; we made posters and a presentation to present to our teacher/judge towards the end of the hour.

Each group performed their presentation, which had to be no longer than 4 minutes. The teacher judging had to choose one group and their product to go through to the final. All of the winners from the 10 forms had to present their product a final time to Mr Whatmough, Ms Matthews, Miss Burt and Mr Seery.



All of the groups had really good ideas. They included a bus which was a café by day and romantic restaurant at night and an outfit chooser that would pick your outfit for the day. The winner from all of the groups would then go on to the Regional school competition with their product. After a discussion, the judges came to the decision that: **Katy Leach, Becky Moss, Andrew King, Thomas Morgan and Lydia Smith** from 10MNJ should win with our flashing flushing fusion toilet that has a massaging backrest and a heated seat as well as other features. We were really pleased that we won but had to get straight to work on an amazing presentation to send off to the regional competition. Taking advantage of the fact we are a Media College, we made a presentation using a video and sound recording as well as slides from PowerPoint.



We are proud to have won out of Year 10. All in all, this was a really fun day, and I would like to have the opportunity to take part in things like this more often.

Lydia Smith

A fortnight ago Year 9s took part in Enterprise Week. Two people came in to Longsands and discussed business issues such as how to start a business, how to cater, employ and fire staff. I really did enjoy this activity because enterprise is a huge part of life and starting your own business. I also understood this fully and had a good knowledge of this.

I learned a lot of skills especially teamwork; we had to work in a team to make an igloo out of newspaper. This task was very difficult but we all found a way around this. The second skill I learned was how to become more creative, especially by making the igloo. I would definitely like to do another activity like this.



Matthew Clifton



Disability and Equality

We invite you to participate in our consultation regarding issues of disability and equality (Disability Discrimination Act 1995).

Our aim is to assess individual needs and, where possible, to make what is known in the relevant legislation as *reasonable adjustments* to improve accessibility (not just to the buildings, but in the case of students especially, more generally to the curriculum and other activities). We have already made a substantial start on this process and, in contrast to our current premises, our new building is being planned right from the start to allow for full access.

When do I qualify as having a disability?

It is now possible for someone to be categorised as being disabled either permanently or on a temporary basis. A person can now be categorised as being disabled if:

- he/she has been diagnosed as having a physical disability which affects their ability to carry out or participate in everyday day-to-day

activities;

- he/she has been diagnosed as suffering from a long term illness or injury (which may be temporary in nature) which affects their ability to carry out or participate in everyday day-to-day activities;
- he/she is recovering from a long term illness or injury which affects their ability to carry out or participate in everyday day-to-day activities.

To help us assess your specific need, we need your input on the nature of any disability you may have and how that could affect such matters as mobility around the building or the level of assistance you would require in the event of an emergency evacuation of the building.

If you would like to submit comments as part of the consultation, please write to Mr Rowe, Director of Contexts and Inclusion, at the College. If the nature of your disability makes this difficult, please telephone the College on 01480 353535 or email ddaenquiries@longsands.cambs.sch.uk.

Shakespeare Schools' Festival – Richard III

During the last six weeks, selected year 9 pupils have been working on ensemble techniques every Monday after school and auditions have taken place informally, based on commitment and performance. We now have a complete cast list and pupils are busy learning their lines. Over the next couple of sessions, we will be working on the production in its entirety, including work on scene transitions.

All pupils taking part are working hard and have shown wonderful enthusiasm and commitment to the production.

The performance is now officially scheduled for Tuesday 6 February at The Key Theatre, Peterborough and is from 7 till 10 pm. There will be three other schools performing a different play that evening. The pupils will also be having an acting workshop with The National Youth Theatre at The Key Theatre – more details to follow for those involved. Promotional flyers and information on ticket sales will also be with the school soon. Once again, a huge thank you, to pupils taking part and staff helping out.

Miss Riotto

Learning Support

Learning Support has welcomed several new Teaching Assistants this term: Mrs Chishlom, Ms Green, Miss Holden, Mrs Narbett, Mrs Shaw, Miss Topliss.

Congratulations to Mrs Burton (TA), who has had a baby boy and is currently on maternity leave.

The Department offers several levels of support, including a lunch-time homework support club. 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.

Mrs Brodie



The Said Group
(Support for Speech
& Interaction Difficulties)

www.saidgroup.org.uk

saidgroup@ntlworld.com

Support Line
01480 383794

Info Line
01480 354125



Extended Schools

The St Neots Schools Forum consists of: Barnabas Oley, Bushmead, Crosshall Infants, Crosshall Juniors, Eynesbury, Great Paxton, Great Staughton, Little Paxton, Middlefield, Newton, Overhills, Priory Park Infants, Priory Juniors, St Marys, Winhills, Samuel Pepys, Longsands, St Neots Community College.

The government's 'Every Child Matters' agenda aims to 'ensure that children stay safe, are healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being'. Schools, because they are located right at the heart of the community, are ideally placed to be a centre for the wider range of services offered by child care and health and social services. Indeed, the government has set out a menu of these 'Extended services', which all localities should provide.

One aspect of the government's demanding vision is that by 2010 all families should have access to 8 am to 6 pm or 'wraparound care'. Other extended services include after school activities, adult education, parenting support programmes and community based health and social care services. This is not about teachers running these services or taking on additional responsibilities. Instead, it is about working closely with parents and other organisations to set up and maintain services that meet a genuine need.

In order to identify ways in which schools can help the community establish 'wraparound care' and links with other services, the St Neots cluster group needs to be aware of what provision is already on offer and the extent to which this meets the needs of the community. Therefore, we would be grateful if you would complete the questionnaire. Please see the front page for further details.



Library News

Everyone in school has a digital brain email account which can be used to transfer work to and from school/home (Hotmail does not work). Details from Mr Hynes or any ICT teacher.

It may seem obvious, but the internet is huge, and finding your way around effectively is a challenge. It is worth remembering that the favourite search engine, Google, only indexes 10% of the content that Yahoo indexes and all the search engines put together only index about 6% of what is out there. This is because lots of information is what is called 'grey'. Perfect examples of these are the subscription services that you can only see if you are a member of a subscribing group, such as a library.

Cambridgeshire County Libraries subscribe to lots of online services which you can access by typing in your PUBLIC library card number. So, for example, you can read 'The Times' newspaper on the day after Queen Victoria died, or after the outbreak of the World Wars. Joining the public library is free, you can also access these services in the public library. Just go to the following

internet address and follow the links:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/reference/hw/>

You won't find any of this using a search engine, so it's pretty useful for helping you with homework.

For newspapers use the Infotrac link, for other newspapers and resources use the school's subscription at:

<http://infotrac.london.galegroup.com/itweb/long> , the password is 'library'.

There are also lots of useful links from the school website:

<http://www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/>

as well as useful information like term dates.

Last but not least, don't forget that sometimes the easiest way to find an answer is to use a book. For the last six years Google have run a challenge in America against a team of librarians to find answers to reference questions, and the librarians and books have always won!

Mr Hynes

Anti-Bullying Week

20 - 24 November

Nine hundred students from the College attended an Anti-Bullying presentation in which actors created scenarios highlighting bullying issues.

Techniques and ideas of what to do if you are experiencing being bullied were carefully addressed by the Snapshot Theatre Group.

Students were able to attend drop-in sessions at lunchtimes and were able to buy anti-bullying lanyards (see picture) to raise money for the Anti-bullying Alliance. Heads of School took assemblies together to show how committed the College is to eradicate all forms of bullying.

6th Form students are currently being trained so that pupils from Key Stage 3 can approach them for support and advice on where to get help. It is hoped that this will maintain open links of communication between staff and students at the College.

Miss O'Kelly



Key Stage 3 Students during Anti-Bullying Week

Show-jumping News



Longsands Students (Laura Kane, Lilly and Amber Cardozo) competing in an inter-schools Show jumping competition. Their next competition is at the end of December.

Tesco Vouchers Computers & Sports

Many thanks to all of you who have sent in your sports vouchers - Mr Marmion is hoping to re-stock with badminton rackets, and Mr Griffiths with CD players for Dance and Drama. We are currently looking at about 10 CD players and 75 badminton rackets, so keep sending them in - right up to the end of term.

The computer vouchers we collected earlier this year were sufficient for two new machines. These should have been delivered by the time of publication, and will, like all computers in the College, receive heavy use from the students. Collection will probably start again in February.

Year 11 Yearbook

The Year 11 Yearbook team are working hard most nights after school to produce this year's memory-packed book. They are currently producing the 24 colour pages, 16 of which are due at the publishers by Christmas.

Year 11 students and staff are being asked to provide any photos of Year 11 students which they want included in the Yearbook. In addition, any parent who works in a business which may be keen to sponsor the Yearbook should contact Mr Paine. Students are being asked to reserve their copy of the Yearbook by bringing in a £5 deposit to the Finance Office, by the 15th December.

Mr Paine



The Yearbook Team 2006-2007

From Robert Whatmough, Principal

So many significant events and developments have occurred in the past two months that it is difficult to do them justice even in this quite lengthy edition of the newsletter.

Enterprise Week in November was exceptionally successful, not least in involving students from right across the College. Each event was designed in one way or another to develop students' confidence and personal skills, including problem-solving and teamwork. Over time, we are building students' understanding of the need for flexibility and enabling them to see how they can identify opportunities and respond to them. The two page report earlier in the newsletter illustrates the range and depth of the activities undertaken. The week as whole illustrated students' readiness to rise to challenge, work in unfamiliar contexts and enjoy their learning. Speed networking, for example, where students had to introduce themselves to people they did not know and engage in making an impact, was a joy to behold.

The BBC News 24 day gave a vivid insight into the reality of live broadcasting. The link throughout the day between a university in Iran, a school in the US and Longsands enabled students to pose inter-cultural questions and express their opinion on the current international situation. It was exciting (and not a little unnerving!) to realise that images broadcast from our library and sixth form common room were being transmitted around the globe. Not only did students participate in a number of news programmes, they also had direct input into the BBC website. Students in Year 8 underlined the College's specialist status in Media Technology and Arts by creating a film about the BBC's filming - this, too, is to appear on the web.

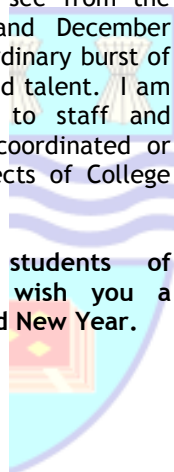
The College's first full-scale production for well over a decade -

Bugsy Malone - represented the ably staged and greatly entertaining outcome of well over a year of planning, preparation and rehearsal. A glance at the programme confirms just how many students were involved in performance and backstage work. The 'Credits' note at the end acknowledges the support received from teachers, teaching assistants, the premises team, former staff, students who undertook additional responsibilities, and three external organisations. It gives just some sense of the coordinated and creative effort needed to produce a musical that was very well received by its audience. The show represented a possible new dimension for performing arts to complement existing excellence in areas such as dance and drama.

At the time of writing, we still have the Carol Service and Presentation of Certificates to look forward to. The first of these will have elements in common with the other events already mentioned: staff who are dedicated to working with students beyond formal lessons, students who are ready and willing to get involved. The second is our annual celebration of students' achievement, itself the outcome of careful nurturing of talent and learning over many years. For many students with public examinations still to take, November's Academic Planning Day will have been an important step in their own journey towards fulfilment of potential.

As I hope you will see from the above, November and December witnessed an extraordinary burst of creativity, energy and talent. I am immensely grateful to staff and students who led, coordinated or managed these aspects of College life.

The staff and students of Longsands College wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.



Developments

Stamp Collection

Please save all those used postage stamps from your Christmas cards and parcels for Smilie's People. This is a charity for young people with Cröhn's disease or Ulcerative colitis (bowel diseases which can have a devastating effect on a person's life).

Stamps must be attached to the envelope with no more than a cm. border around them, and should then be placed in the box in the library. Thank you.

Mrs Turtle

English Department

At the end of the Summer Term, 20 students assisted a researcher from the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge with her research into organising principles and categorisation in perception. The results of this research have now been published. Thank you, current Year 9 students! You were superb.

Mrs Brodie



Student Survey

A report on the 2006 Student Survey has been held over until early in the New Year. This is to help ensure that the outcomes of the survey are disseminated at a time in the year when they can be used in planning College development.