



Longsands College Newsletter

www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

From the Principal...

December 2008: This term at Longsands...

Dear Parents

The second half of the autumn term has seen students across the College involved in a wide range of additional activities.

National Enterprise Week, Anti-Bullying Week and International Education Week were scheduled at national level for 17-21 November. We wanted to make the most of all three, and so moved our participation in International Education Week to the next week. This turned out to be an appropriate decision as exceptionally high levels of involvement in each area were achieved.

The Enterprise programme reached all students in Years 7-10 and most of the sixth form. Activities ranged from business simulation through to 'speed networking'. Longsands students created and performed a dance/drama production that was a centrepiece of the St Neots Anti-Bullying Project. A DVD made by pupils across the locality and distributed to all Year 6 pupils was also collated and edited here. International Education Week encouraged students to develop an international perspective as part of the College's effort to help students understand the world around them and prepare for their own role in it. Students from Years 7 to 11 followed international themes across the curriculum in some of their lessons and Key Stage 3 students were invited to a screening of Japanese Manga Film *Howel's Moving Castle*.

None of the above would happen without the leadership, co-ordination, enthusiasm and perseverance demonstrated by staff and students.

In keeping with recent practice, several reports (including photographs, video and animations) are already on our website (www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk). I do hope that, if at all possible, you will take a look.

A fundamental aim of the College is that every student should make best possible progress. Academic Planning Day offers an opportunity for students to take stock of how the year has started and what can be aspired to over the coming months. We do understand that, even if they wish to, not every parent can attend their child's interview. However, the overall level of support by parents was much appreciated. Thank you, too, to all of you who have indicated readiness to receive key messages by email.

Unfortunately, this letter cannot cover all of the major events leading up to Christmas. At the time of writing, *Aladdin* and the annual Carol Service are still to come. However, they too will be special times for those directly participating and for the audience or congregation.

On behalf of Longsands students, staff and governors, Happy Christmas and New Year.

Rob Whatmough
Principal



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Last Day of Term

The College will run a condensed day on Friday 19 December. Lessons will end at 1.20 pm. Buses have been scheduled for 1.30 pm. Private study facilities will be available until 3.10 pm

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Enterprise Week 2008

Monday 17 November saw the start of Enterprise Week here at Longsands. All year groups were involved and there was a wide range of activities that took place throughout the week. Year 7 and 6th form took part in 'Speed Network the Nation,' which is an event which is run across the country to help build confidence and self-esteem.



Year 8 launched Enterprise Week with their 'Form Challenges.' Every form competed in five challenges against each other to test a huge variety of enterprise skills, confidence, team working and initiative, working to deadlines and of course creativity. Amongst the challenges were building a newspaper rollercoaster, completing a quiz and a Dragons' Den task to design a new range of shoes. The winning form was **8KEG** and huge congratulations go to them!

Year 9 took part in a business simulation game called Boombiz. The hands-on game took part in the Old Gym where students ran their own business and competed for high profit levels and cash flow.

Year 10 took part in the National Make Your Mark Challenge. All Year 10 had to come up with an

enterprising idea that built on the values of the Olympic Games. There were some fantastic entries from every form and the winning form was **10APB** who came up with 'Camp Fortitudo' – a summer camp for children.

We spoke to Mr Carroll about whether or not he thought enterprise week was a success and he told us that he thought it was "a great success". He also told us [that]; "you'll struggle to find a secondary school locally and nationally that has as many people involved in it". We also spoke to Miss Burt, who said "I hope that the students got a sense of creativity... they got to do something different and I hope overall they enjoyed it."



Reporters:
Ellie Nethaway & Marissa Plumb

Lion's Lair

A group of sixth form students from Longsands College recently enjoyed a successful visit to the Lions Lair, otherwise known as Anglian Water. The event, hosted by Young Enterprise as part of 'National Enterprise week', was run along similar lines to the highly successful television show 'Dragons Den'.



Longsands, with the support of local businessmen and women, is proud to have nurtured several very successful sixth form businesses. The national scheme provides students with hands-on experience of all aspects of running a small business. Emerald, one of this year's businesses, has come up with the idea of promoting sustainable living to primary school students. The company's efforts to tame the business lions was rewarded with them receiving the maximum £200 invested in their company. The business is focused on developing a range of 'home grow seed kits' targeted at young children. Each kit comes complete with monitoring charts, instructions and a cartoon strip.

Molly Judge, managing director, commented after the evening, "Although we only came into existence 10 weeks ago, we have already started

to see some of the complexities of how businesses are run and the importance of innovation, finance and human resources. We believe our success at the Lions Lair will spur us on to even greater things in the coming months and provide useful finance for improving our production and marketing activities." **Liza Harris**, marketing director, said, "Emerald is a very dynamic company and testament to the benefits of good team working... and of course the products we are producing will make wonderful stocking fillers... so don't delay, order today (contact us via Longsands College)."

Report:
Emerald

Christmas Bazaar 2008

On Wednesday 17 December, all Key Stage 3 form groups took part in a Christmas Bazaar to raise money for a charity of their choice. It was held in the Sports Hall during periods 2, 3 and 4. Students sold items/ invented games to attract customers to their stall. Some stalls sold homemade cakes, there was a second hand book shop and a 'What Happens Next?' stall!

For the first year, the festivities were not restricted to KS3, and Mini-enterprise businesses from the KS4 Applied Business course put their business heads together to compete with KS3 to sell their products. The Managing Director of 'Odd Stuff', a mini-enterprise business, said *"It was a great opportunity to sell our products and it really helped us make some money so our business can restock and continue along the two year course."*

Along with the stalls there was also an orchestra (led by Mr Dack) playing Christmas songs over the three hours, which added a festive feel to the whole day.



Reporter:
Nathan Austin

6th Form Car Wash

On Thursday 27 November, Academic Planning Day, several 6th Formers participated in a fund raising car wash. They were raising money for a Science trip to Honduras. They managed to raise over £350 for their trip.

On the same day, **Claire, James and Richard Philp, Sophie Tack, Harvey Bentham, Peter Atkinson and Ben Fox** did a sponsored cycle ride from St Neots to Peterborough to raise £400 towards the £2500 cost of the visit. They started out at 9 am arriving in Peterborough city centre at 1.15 pm.

The trip will be in July 2009 and students will look at the bio-diversity in Honduras. They also plan to help communities with their crops and hopefully help them have a better price for the crops they sell.



Reporter:
Nathan Austin

Creative Exchange Open For Business

The building hosted a variety of interactive workshops during the day, one of which was the creation of a piece of 'textile art', which all visitors had an opportunity to help create. Members of the public also had the opportunity to speak to other creative businesses about their work, which were on show throughout the day.



During the evening reception, BBC2's Dragon's Den winner Max McMurdo made a speech and presented the prize to the winners of the 'Junk Modelling' competition, which has been running at Longsands and St Neots Community College.

The high spec, unique building is the result of the partnership between Longsands, Huntingdonshire District Council and the East of England Development Agency. It has an unusual and striking design and even incorporates a roof garden. You may have seen it as you come into Longsands, it is hoped that the Creative Exchange will provide opportunities for students at Longsands.



Reporter:
Michelle Fletcher

Art Department Visits

On 7 and 8 of October, the Art department took a group Year 11s to the Fitzwilliam museum to *"broaden and deepen students knowledge of art"* said Miss Saklani the new deputy head of Art. The most enjoyable experience for Miss Saklani was that some students opened their minds to different types of art work. Next year, Miss Saklani hopes to lead a trip for Year 10s as well or a variety of different artists come in, to give workshops.



Reporter:

Key Stage 4

Following the success of the Year 10 Sponsored Walk last term, monies raised went to Samuel Pepys School and Gift Aid and a small contribution was given to KS4 events organisers for future KS4 activities.

Look out for more KS4 sponsored events later this school year.

Congratulations...

...to **Curtis Weaver** (Year 11) who has been selected to play for the Midlands Rugby Squad in the Divisional Final at Coventry in January 2009.

6th Form Sleep-Out

On Saturday 6 December, forty-seven Year 12 and 13 students organised a sponsored sleep out. It was the coldest night of the year so far at only -3 degrees centigrade, which gave the students a realistic experience of what life would be like to be homeless. The Year 12 and 13 students slept outside in cardboard boxes from around midnight to 7 am. In total, the group managed to raise around £2000 for the Salvation Army Homeless Centre in Vauxhall. Year 12 student Katie Staddon commented: *"It was an amazing experience, it forced me to think about the fact that some people of my age do not have a home to go to. It was a lot of fun, but it also*



made us think about those less fortunate than ourselves." decorated the Salvation Hall in Vauxhall for Christmas and worked with staff to help prepare the night shelter. Students also distributed food and drink to the homeless. This is an on going cause which Longsands' 6th Form have been supporting for around 15 years. Mr Donnelly leads this event every year, and commented: *"It's a lovely way for all of us to help people who are less fortunate than ourselves, it is an unusual way to raise money and we all have a great laugh.... The best part for me is the enthusiasm of all the students."*

On Monday 8 December, ten 6th Form students



Reporters:
Ellie Nethaway & Marissa Plumb

Royal Rewards!

On Friday 17 October, five Year 9 students from each KS3 school went to a preview of this year's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures in Cambridge. We left at 12.20pm, and arrived back at the school at about 3.45pm. While we were there, we all learnt a lot about the way computers and technology work, including how to count in binary, what quantum bits are and how information is processed over the internet without other people getting hold of it!

We learned all of this through demonstrations where one or more volunteers were needed, so many of us took part in the activities. We played several games, which were all expanding our knowledge on the topic we were studying.

In one game we threw sponge balls at each other and everyone else in the audience! Another game we took part in was very similar to a Nintendo Wii, where we had to lean left and right to control a table-tennis bat. The whole reason the preview of the lecture took place was because the organisers wanted our opinion of

them before they were broadcast on Channel 5 at Christmas and New Year, so soon you'll be able to see just why we enjoyed them so much!

This year, the lectures will be shown as follows:

Monday 29 December 7.15pm

Breaking the Speed Limit

Tuesday 30 December 7.15pm

Chips with Everything

Wednesday 31 December 7.15pm

The Ghost in the Machine

Thursday 1 January 7.15pm

Untangling the Web

Friday 2 January 7.15pm

Digital Intelligence

Reporter:
Kara Wildber

Aladdin: Thank you

Thank you to all those involved in the Aladdin production. The show, a huge success, would not have been possible without the dedication of the cast, crew and staff involved. Look out in the next edition for a feature on the show.

Anti-Bullying Week 2008

Anti-bullying week took place from Monday 17 – 21 November and was a great success. The aim of the week was to confirm awareness that bullying is not acceptable and what to do when you encounter it. Many different events were happening around the College.

An assembly for Key Stage 3 students took place at Longsands and featured a play based on a real life scenario. A PowerPoint with helpful suggestions for dealing with the issues of bullying and a DVD were created by **Ashley Radley** (Year 9), which included

interviews with members of staff talking about support for students.

Mrs Binning, organiser of anti-bullying at Longsands, says, "There was a great sense of the community working throughout the week."



Reporter:
Michelle Fletcher



Dance performance by Year 12 students **Lydia, Ian, Joey, Charlotte, Emma** and **Jemma**, with technical support from **Matthew, Mitchell, Heather** and **Tim**, and choreography by Mr Griffiths, focused on cyber-bullying and deliberate isolation and was seen by all Year 7 students.

St Neots Locality Anti-bullying Charter Relay which reflected the united voice of all St Neots schools and other local organisations in our determination both to raise the profile of this issue and to reaffirm that bullying will not be tolerated, started its journey at the St Neots Locality team office in Marshall Road, Eynesbury. It was then taken to all 19 schools in the St Neots Locality and signed by staff and student representatives. Along with Mr Whatmough, **Ryan** and **Maddie**, both in Year 9, signed the Charter on behalf of Longsands College. The students then delivered the Charter to Priory Infant School.

An **Anti-Bullying DVD** was created which represents a snapshot of students' views and work. Many schools in the



Drop-in sessions were available each lunch time, staffed by Mrs Dunn, a member of the St Neots Locality support team.

St Neots Locality took part in a project about bullying and filmed their work. Primary teachers visited Longsands for a training session on filming techniques with Mr Noble. The film, having been edited by Mr Gamby at Longsands, was professionally duplicated and a copy for each Year 6 pupil was delivered to all the schools at the same time as the Anti-bullying Charter. The Longsands dance performance forms part of the DVD and **Rebecca** in Year 11 designed the DVD wrap.

There was a **sale** of goods from the Anti-bullying Alliance to promote awareness and make a stand against bullying.

Thanks to **Ryan, Maddie, Ashley, Liam, Amelia, Josh, Rebecca** and **Tom** for selling the lanyards, stationery equipment and badges.

Longsands is proud of its achievements during National Anti-bullying week and looks forward to continuing its efforts to combat bullying.

Mrs Binning

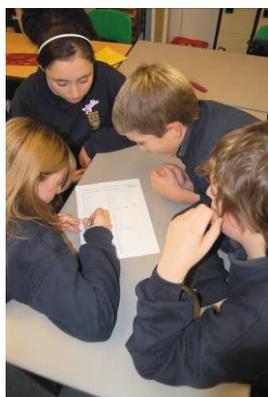


International Education Week



During Longsands' International Education Week 24-28 November 2008, departments and year groups put on a series of activities to celebrate everything international.

To encourage students to develop an international perspective is a fundamental part of Longsands' effort to help students understand the world around them and prepare for their own role within it. During International Education Week, students followed international themes across the curriculum in some of their lessons. Departments across the board linked their lessons to the wider world, students from KS3 to KS5 participated in activities such as Indian lantern making: animation and film projects; ethical discussions in RE; MFL, Geography and Science Quizzes; Russian, Chinese and Egyptian multiplication, and food tastings in technology, which involved



sampling various delicious delights from around the globe.

Longsands has a commitment to learning experiences beyond the

classroom. During the week, a Japanese Manga Film Screening was offered to all Key Stage 3 Students. KS3 students were also targeted to make radio podcasts about internationalism. Students also had Moroccan,

Italian and Greek food in the canteen at various times in the week.

Staff at Longsands believe in the importance of the International Global Dimension and its impact on young people. In addition to preparing young people for the international world of work, it is important that as a school we work together to share information about different cultures, beliefs and languages to ensure students have the chance to learn about others and themselves.

Many thanks to all the staff and students involved.

Danke
Grazie
Gracias
Dank u
Kiitos
Mahalo
Vinaka
Asante
Hvala
Shukran
Toda
Merci
Takk
Xie Xie
Khawp jai
Ua tsaug
Sabkaa

Podcasts, animation videos, mini-films and photos are available on the College website: www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk



Reporters:
Francesca Cannon & Grace Richards

Consultation: Sex and Relationships Education Policy

We invite parents and students to comment on a revised draft of our Sex and Relationships Education policy.

The new version of this policy takes into account county and national guidance as well as the College's Statement of Ethos and Aims.

The policy can be downloaded from our website: www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk. Please follow the link: Parents' Information to General. Alternatively, a paper copy can be supplied on request to the Principal's PA (Mrs Scott) at the College.

Comments are welcome on any aspect of the draft. Please refer to the section heading and page number. Emails should be addressed to: enquiries@longsands.cambs.sch.uk. Otherwise, please write to the Principal's PA. Please would parents state the year group of their child(ren).

It would be helpful to receive any responses by the end of January 2009.