



# Longsands College Newsletter

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July 2007

## From the Principal

Longsands seems to do the opposite of winding down to the end of the summer term. As I have noted in previous years, the final weeks are a period of somewhat frenetic activity. Very early in this month, we were delighted to welcome the new Year 7 to the College for two Transition Days. We then enjoyed the sequence of events that has become a traditional feature of the July calendar: the Arts Festival; the Summer Concert; the Art Exhibition; Sports Day; Dance Events. Not one of these would happen without the hard work and determination of staff and students. Taken as a whole, they represent a whole College celebration of students' skills and creativity. A good number of events have been videoed or otherwise recorded, with media products displayed on our website: [www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk). The podcast featuring extracts from the Summer Concert is just one highlight.

The summer term also sees the last trips and visits for the year. At the time of writing, the rugby tour of South Africa is underway together with Modern Languages visits to France and Germany. These follow several other outings at home and abroad. I should like to thank the teachers and support staff who organise these events, which often require many more hours of preparation than people realise. Thanks and congratulations are also due to our students who, as they go out and about, are excellent ambassadors for the College. It is not at all unusual for staff to return with reports of how members of the public have commented very favourably on students' conduct.

The summer term has also seen the start of the long-awaited new-build project. The contractors - RG Carter (Cambridge) - are currently working on the foundations of the new 28 classroom block. Construction will continue throughout 2007-08, with an anticipated completion date in late summer. Providing there are no unforeseen problems, we should be able to move into the block ready for September 2008.

Two other premises-related projects also being pursued: construction of the Creative Enterprise Centre (in partnership with the District Council); construction of an all-weather pitch. The first of these could well be completed before the end of the next

academic year. The second still requires attention in terms of ensuring we have sufficient funding to proceed. Several issues in relation to obtaining planning permission have now been addressed, and we are quietly optimistic that an overall site plan can be developed before too long.

Throughout these projects, priority will be to secure continuity of learning for students. The prospect of new, purpose-built facilities is exciting and should carry us over any temporary inconvenience.

We have relatively few staff leaving us this summer. However, as you will see from the list of names on page 5, some of them have given long and meritorious service. Kate Smyth has been an outstanding teacher of PE and a stalwart of the pupil support system, most recently as Head of Willow School. We wish her and her family well as she heads off to New Zealand. Another teacher, Pat Allan, has been a source of support and guidance to several generations of Longsands students, and not just in the role of Head of Year. A long, happy and very active retirement beckons! Best wishes to both of them and to other departing colleagues.

Finally, it may be appropriate to recall our OFSTED inspection in February. This is just one of the many positive comments from the report:

*Although Longsands College is a large institution, it is one where it is very clear that individual students matter.*

I hope that everyone involved in the College can look back at the academic year now ending and find satisfaction in what has been achieved.

## End of Term Arrangements

Friday 20 July

Lessons 1 & 2	as normal
Break	as normal
11.20am–12.10pm	Lesson 3
12.10pm–1.00pm	Lesson 4
1.00pm-1.20pm	Lunch

*Buses arranged for 1.20pm. Students will be allowed to leave from 1pm onwards. Study facilities will be available until 3.10pm.*

## Youth Award Success

Several Year 11 students have gained nationally recognised ASDAN Youth Awards. They are:  
**Perry Barnard**  
**Steven Crane**  
**Kelly Hunter**  
**Bradley Jones**  
**Matthew Kitt**  
**Lucy Staughton**  
**and Grant Savin.**

Special congratulations to **Kelly, Matthew and Lucy** who went on to achieve the Silver Award.

Mrs Binning

## Student Support

There are some adjustments to the Student Support structure, which will come into effect from September 2007. The posts and post holders for KS3 and KS4 are shown below.

The Key Stage 3 Team:

Deputy Principal:  
Pupil Progress 10-14  
Mr Carroll

Head of Aspen: Mrs Andrews  
Head of Maple: Ms O'Kelly  
Head of Willow: Mr Paine  
Intervention Co-ordinator:  
Mr Glover  
Pupil Support Officer:  
Miss Robins

The Key Stage 4 Team:

Deputy Principal:  
Student Progress 14-19  
Mr Rowe

Head of 14-16: Mr David  
Transition & Intervention Co-ordinators:  
Miss Benson & Ms Smith  
Student Support Officer:  
Mrs Stockwell

Student Attendance Officer  
(KS3-KS5): Mrs Boothby

Mr Watson (Deputy Principal) will also have input into both Key Stages.

# Enterprise: Year 9 at Bar Hill Primary



Miss Burt & 9ANB at Bar Hill Primary School

Longsands students held an Enterprise Event at Bar Hill Primary School. They ran the Summer Fete on Friday 15 June. Longsands' students have been working with teachers and staff at Bar Hill. Following the success of the Christmas Bazaars at Longsands where students run the whole event themselves, Miss Burt and the staff at Bar Hill primary thought that it would be a good idea to allow the children to run their own Summer Fete. The whole of Bar Hill Primary were off timetable and worked on the event for two days. The aim of the project was to build self esteem and to encourage decision-making and financial literacy, initiative and responsibility.

Ten members of 9ANB (Owen Smith, Laura Airey, Samantha Emery, Rebecca Stapleton, Ryan Ferrara, Zoe Mulgrew, Rachel Walker, Gemma Thomas, Samantha Williamson &

Daniel Bream) spent two days at Bar Hill. They helped to teach pupils about money and running a business. Over the two days, the children planned a stall for the Bar Hill Primary Summer Fete and then on Friday after school, the students ran their own stalls with the help of 9ANB. Members of 9ANB were assigned to work with a specific class and helped make posters and banners. Each class made a product which ranged from badges, pet accessories, bookmarks and services included computer games, a healthy food & drink stall and a nail bar.

The groups of pupils were split into departments: finance, marketing, production and human resources. Each department had specific responsibilities and they had to work together to get decisions made and ensure their stall was ready on time!

The Year 9s thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Longsands pupil **Rachel Walker** (Year 9) commented; *"I wanted to visit the primary school because I like children and I would maybe like to have a job to do with children. I would also like to help the children have a good school."* Another student commented; *"I had such a great time, the children were great fun to work with."*

Both staff and students invested time and effort into ensuring the events' success. **Rebecca Stapleton** said; *"I can't wait to go to the primary school because I love working with children and saw this as an ideal opportunity to work with them!"*

Students from 9ANB

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## Active Kids Get Cooking Award

Four Year 9 students will soon be receiving the Active Kids Get Cooking Award, as they have demonstrated good knowledge and cooking capability. **Holly Welham, David Skillicorn & Mark Rogers** all passed the Silver Award for the Pasta Mania project. **Gemma Bleakley** passed the award with 'merit'. Students had to meet certain criteria for healthy eating; food knowledge; planning; cooking; being safe and an evaluation of the project. Sainsbury's, The Design and Technology Association and the British Nutrition Foundation all support the Food Awards as it encourages healthy eating and

practical work with food in schools. This project also links in with the Healthy Schools initiative which aims to raise the profile of health education alongside academic achievement. There is also a focus on physical, social and emotional well-being which responds to the health needs of the school and the community. Well done to all those who took part.



Gemma Bleakley

# Spare Seats for Purchase on School Buses

Under Cambridgeshire's Home to School Transport Policy, pupils who are not eligible for free transport may be allowed to pay to travel on existing buses contracted to the County Council, if seats are available.

Now is the time of year that parents can apply to purchase spare seats for the autumn term.

The cost with effect from September 2007 will be £110 per term for a return journey ticket or £55 for a one-way journey. If families meet certain low income criteria a reduced charge of £70 a term is applicable. This represents excellent value, equating to £1.73 (£1.10 low income rate) per day when averaged out over the school year.

Seats are available on a termly or half-termly, 'first come, first served' basis. Please note that buses cannot deviate from their existing routes/timetables.

Full details of the spare seats scheme is available on the website [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/getting/school](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/getting/school)

Please contact Sue Eagle on: 01223 714189 for further information.

## Learning Support

If you have concerns about your child's special needs, please contact the SENCo, Mrs A Brodie, at any point in the year. Mrs Brodie attends all Key Stage 3 and 4 Parents' Evenings and is usually able to see parents without an appointment.

## Year 6 Arrive at Longsands

I have met new people, enjoyed the lessons and felt very welcome.

I really enjoyed my days at Longsands. The other pupils in school helped me to find way and it is a lot of fun.

Everyone is really friendly. Older students I don't know say "Hi!"

Even when things aren't going well - when you're lost - there are always people to help you.

'Thank you' to everyone at Longsands for making the Year 6 students feel so welcome on their two transition days starting Tuesday 3 July. We were genuinely overwhelmed by the offers of help and support from Year 8 students, many of whom acted as guides on the buses and around the school. The Transition Team hope you enjoy some of the wonderful comments the Year 6 had to say at the end of their two days with us at Longsands.

I have enjoyed my stay. Everybody has helped me and all the older children have checked I'm lost.

Longsands has an atmosphere that makes me feel safe.

People are friendly, nice and kind. Also you don't have (to change) to fit in, you can be yourself.

Thank you, from Miss Jones, the Transition Team and, of course, Year 6.

People are so nice to me.



Right: Mrs Chilman working with Year 6.



# Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 4 July, four students went to Lancashire to take part in the 'Edgehill Maths Challenge'. They had already completed the first two stages of the competition and got down to the last 28 students.

The students, all from Year 8, called themselves SohCahToa. The team had to present their solutions to a panel of judges and their method in working out the problem. Unfortunately, they did not win, but an enjoyable day was had by all.

James Gough, Victoria Hellett, Alexandra Hutchinson, & Lauren Marks



# Arts Festival

On Tuesday 10 July, Longsands held its Summer Concert and Art Exhibition. The Art Exhibition showcased students' work from Years 7 - 13. It provided an opportunity for pupils to show their work to friends, family and general public. Guests were offered refreshments in the new Key Stage 4 Courtyard, followed by an evening concert in the New Hall. There was a wide variety of musical entertainment including jazz, swing band and solo performances. The evening was a resounding success for all those who attended the event. The last piece 'Tequila' was dedicated to Mr Tobone, who will be leaving Longsands at the end of the year after teaching peripatetic music lessons here for 25 years.

## Taiko Drumming

On Thursday 5 July 150 Year 7 pupils attended Taiko (Japanese) Drumming Workshops. They were taught a series of rhythms and beats which they rehearsed throughout the session. The workshops finished with a performance by workshop leaders Mark and Nao from a professional touring company called Taikomeantime. Drummer Nao commented; "There are lots of talented students at Longsands College!"

Gemma Bleakley, Jenna Lewis & Isobel Bruning

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# Year 11 Prom at the Priory



On Thursday 5 July, the Year 11 prom was held at the Priory Centre in St Neots. Despite the rain, it was a very pleasant occasion. There were many modes of transport.

While some arrived in stretch limos, some came in a fire engine, on an old tour bus and even a horse-drawn carriage.

This year's Prom King was Harvey Dixon, and the Prom Queen was Caroline O'Donoghue. One of the prizes included a day of pampering at a spa. Mrs Hopewell commented: "The dresses were beautiful, the boys were very handsome and the whole event was very adult. The colour theme was white, pink and gold, with an ice-cream stall and umbrella to match." Mr David also said, "It was a lovely occasion. Everyone



there looked great and both pupils and staff had a great time."

Laura Kane & Jessica Lindop



Photos: Year 11 arrive at the Prom.

**September 2007**

**Start of Term Arrangements**

**Tuesday 4 September**

Year 12 registration: 8.45 am–9.30 am

Year 13 registration: 1.50 pm

**Wednesday 5 September**

Year 7 only

**Thursday 6 September**

Normal Working

**Friday 7 September**

Normal Working.

**Key Stage 4 Transition Evening**

On Tuesday 11 September, there will be a Key Stage 4 Transition Evening held at the College. Letters will be going out to parents in the week preceding the event. The aims of the evening are to provide comprehensive information to parents including:

- expectations and ethos;
- GCSE overview;
- support structures;
- monitoring arrangements;
- coursework clubs;
- deadlines for coursework;

The evening will give parents an overview of the opportunities available to students in KS4 including:

- trips and visits open to KS4;
- student responsibilities and other opportunities;

Attendance at this event would be appreciated.

## Fond Farewells

Longsands will be a very different place without Kate Smyth. Over her ten years here, she has made a massive contribution and has been a positive role model to many children.

Her achievements, involvement and talent are acknowledged by all her colleagues and will stand her in good stead in her new life in New Zealand.

Mr Marmion

Pat Allan retires from Longsands at the end of term. She has worked as a teacher in the Technology Department since arriving in 1988. She retired from her pastoral role as Head of Year 10 in 2005.

She will be missed by students and staff alike. Over the last academic year Mrs Allan has been working on a behaviour project across the College.

She hopes to spend more time with her new grandson and to visit her son in Australia.

We say farewell to the following staff and wish them the best for the future:

Leigh Adams

Pat Allan

Sarah Berry

Kerrie Cavilla

Helen Gardiner

Elaine Ponton

Teresa Shortall

Kate Smyth.

## Goodbyes from Learning Support

At the end of term, we say farewell to Miss Brind, Miss Holden and Mrs Peabody, who have been highly valued Teaching Assistants in the department. Miss Brind and Miss Holden have also made significant contributions to Music and Performing Arts within the College and we are particularly happy that they are now going on to train as teachers. Mrs Peabody is expecting a baby and is then going to live abroad.

Mrs Brodie

# Overhills Primary School



Congratulations to Overhills Primary School's Year 5 & 6s who entered the Junior Priorities writing competition. The entries below are by two pupils from Overhills who will be joining us at Longsands.

## Chicks at Overhills!

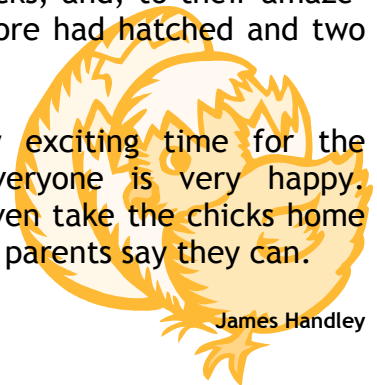
Overhills school had a wonderful thing happen to them the week of SATs. I bet you are all wondering what it was aren't you?

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