



Longsands College Newsletter

www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

Cashless catering arrives!

We have recently written to parents and carers with information about two new systems we are in the process of installing at the College; cashless catering and Parentpay. The first is a new type of biometric fingertip cashless catering technology called VeriCool for Schools. We intend to install the system and enrol the students on Tuesday 15 June and we hope to 'go live' with it on Thursday 17 June. When enrolled, after making their choice in the canteen, each student will place their finger on a scanner to make a payment for their food. No cash or swipe card is required. The default daily limit has been set at £3.50. Students are unable to change this amount, but parents and carers can do so by contacting the finance office.

Payment Options for Cashless Catering

The options for payment when this system has been installed will be as follows:

1. Parentpay. Further information on Parentpay is detailed below.
2. Using cash loaders which will be installed at strategic points around the college, near H Block social area, in F Block social area and in the Ritchie Hall.
3. Payment by cheque into the College Finance Office. Cheques must have the name of the student and tutor group on the reverse. The College Finance Office will then update the student's account accordingly.

Parentpay is an e-payment solution specially designed for schools. It enables funds to be administered to a child's account by credit or debit card over the Internet. It is currently available to parents to credit their son/daughter's account for cashless catering and will soon be available for all payments for trips, music lessons and uniform. You should already have received your login details for using Parentpay; if not, please contact the College Finance Office.

Community Learning in St Neots

It's never too late to learn!

We have something for everyone, regardless of age, from short informal courses through to nationally recognised qualifications.

Whether you want to exercise your mind or body, we have a class for you!

Contact: 01480 223348/374948

Email: community@stneotscc.cambs.sch.uk
www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/lcac



Longsands Arts Festival

5 - 20 July 2010

Longsands is delighted to announce its annual Arts Festival, which is an opportunity for students to showcase the skills they have learnt across the College during the academic year. There will be a variety of events during the festival, all of which promise to be stimulating, engaging and inspiring.

The Longsands Arts Festival gives students a chance to take part in activities to which they may not normally have access. Workshops this year include: dance, screen printing, musicals, sculpture, beaten metal & enamelling, photographic activities, graffiti, video & audio workshops, animation, LCSound, robot programming and musical theatre. Students will be able to sign up to these workshops in the College library from 21 to 25 June. Places are limited; if workshops are heavily oversubscribed, names will be pulled out of a hat.

May 2010

This term at Longsands....



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Longsands awarded Artsmark Gold!

Arts Council England has awarded Artsmark Gold to Longsands in recognition of our school's commitment to, and excellence in, arts education. More next issue!

Year 10 Work Experience

21 June—2 July

Mr David wishes all the best for a successful placement and looks forward to **Monday 5 July** when the Year 10s return to College. Students will have a Work Experience de-brief lesson 1 on Monday 5 July.



Longsands Road
St. Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 1LQ

Longsands' Election

On Thursday 6 May, the 2010 General Election took place. An occasion for the British electorate to express their constitutional right to choose an MP to represent their views in the House of Commons. Many Britons voted for the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, the Labour Party and the Green Party.

Here at Longsands, students were also able to express their political opinion. Mr Owen and Mr Seymour organised the event at Longsands—students have held their own election here since 2001. The idea was to give students experience and knowledge, and to raise awareness of the country's General Election. Longsands students have accurately represented the opinions of the country nationally and have chosen

the winners consistently. As for this Longsands election, the overall vote went to Conservatives (35%).

A variety of candidates came to College to talk with Sixth Formers about what their manifesto offered, and to give our students more information about the election. The Sixth Formers then researched the parties and represented each one. They then made a political broadcast video on their party to encourage the rest of College to vote. (If you'd like to watch the video, it will be available on the College website shortly.)

Mr Owen said *"I really thought this was a great success, and very interesting. All students did very well and were so enthusiastic!"*

Reporters:

Ellie Sadler & Ella-louise Parker

Film Club

On Wednesday 19 May, the modern classic film 'Sherlock Holmes' was previewed at Longsands College in the library. 'Sherlock Holmes' is a 2009 action mystery film. Holmes investigates a series of murders, apparently connected to occult rituals. We talked to a fellow student, Alex P in 8MDP *"It's a brilliant film, 10 out of 10. My favourite part of the film was*

where a man magically gets set alight as the special effects were awesome!"

For next half term the film screening genre will be *animation*. Some of the films that will be shown are: 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs', 'Wall.e', 'Ice Age 3'.

Reporter:

Joanne Childerley

Garden Spruce-up

The Science Garden outside G Block is currently undergoing a facelift. The refurbishment will include some changes, for example the overgrown pond has been filled and is now a flowerbed. Other plants and flowers in the middle of the garden will be replaced by a greenhouse for students to cultivate cuttings and other plants.

Reporters:

James Allwright, Alex Howson & Isaac Sutton-Wild



On Saturday 22 May, Year 9 students went to the popular amusement park, Thorpe Park, as a reward for finishing their exams. Students (and staff) enjoyed rides such as *Saw*, *Colossus* - the 10 consecutive loop rollercoaster, and new maze, *Saw Alive* with actors in the maze. There were also more traditional 'tea-cups', log flumes and the Ribena Rumba Rapids. One student said before the trip *'I just can't wait, Saw will be fun and I can't wait to get dizzy on Colossus!'*

Reporters:

James Allwright, Alex Howson

Your Shout !

REMINDER

Anyone who still has not yet entered anything for the *shout out* wall can still do so. The final date will be Friday 18 June. Mr Goddard will remind us in assemblies of the key information. During the Summer Arts Festival, Mr Goddard will be working with some Key Stage 3 students who entered their designs. It is hoped that lots of students will have the opportunity to paint their ideas on the New Hall wall for the day.

Emily Hooker & Joanne Childerley

Year 11 Prom

This is a chance to celebrate with Year 11 an end to a wonderful year. The event will be held at the Burgess Hall in St Ives on Wednesday 30 June. There will be up to £1000 worth of prizes, ice-creams, a DJ, photographs by Mr Whatmough and a Prom King and Queen. This year, the Prom King and Queen will be decided on the night, so get ready to cast your vote!

Mr David

Key Stage 4 & 5

Good Luck

The Year 11s, 12s and 13s have already started the Summer Exam period. Students have opportunities for many revision sessions with staff at the College, and each student has a copy of the Revision Timetable. On behalf of everyone at Longsands, we wish all those sitting exams this summer - all the very best that they could wish for themselves. Good luck, particularly to Year 11 and Year 13; this is your last chance to shine so make it count and just try your hardest.

Alex Howson

Extending ICT Opportunities for Key Stage 3

This year, there has been a change to the Year 8 curriculum, adding to opportunities for students to experience ICT in their timetable. Currently Longsands' students do not experience separate lessons in ICT in Year 8, so some of our teachers have worked together to ensure that all Year 8 students have the opportunity to learn ICT through Maths, Science, Technology and new Media across the curriculum.

One of the workshops that teachers have been working on is series of Animation Workshops, which ensure that Year 8s get involved with and experience more technical programs. This year, Mr Williams has been working with Year 8s on the project. The animation lessons are linked to the Every Child Matters programme of Stay Safe and require students to think about internet safety. The idea is to ensure that they realise that there are some websites that can be dangerous if they are not used responsibly, such as social networking sites eg Facebook, Bebo and Twitter.

The College decided to give students the opportunity to access a free program called 'Monkey Jam' to make their animation. This means that if students enjoy the work, they can continue learning independently at home without having to pay for expensive software. Using whiteboards, Plasticine, stick-men, Mr Potato Head toys and themselves, all Year 8 students have now completed their animated film; students will now have one more session so that they can add some audio to their work. Everyone we interviewed pointed out how much they enjoyed it, and said they would do it again any day.

Mr Williams commented *"This is a chance to look at audio and video in media. It is an opportunity to show us specialising in media. I thought the project was absolutely brilliant and allowed students to really enjoy their learning; it has been great fun to teach!"*

Reporters:
Ella-Louise Parker and Ellie Sadler

Free Swimming Lessons

"Always wanted to learn to swim? Dream of swimming on your next holiday? Want to take the kids or grandchildren swimming?"

The ASA are providing Free Swimming Lessons for non swimmers over the age of 11. If you can't swim, are not confident to swim alone, or have not swum for years then this is your chance to get back into the pool through Free Swimming Lessons.

You will get 6 hours of Free Swimming Lessons provided by a fully qualified Level 2 Teacher in a small group with no more than 12 people.

To register for lessons please call **0800 14 22214**, or email collette.railton@swimming.org to find out where lessons are being held near you. Take the plunge, and tell your friends as well, this is for anyone over 11 who is a non swimmer, so get back into the pool today!"

Year 9 Graduation

On Friday 18 June, Year 9 start the transition process from KS3 graduating to KS4. Mr David will be their new Key Stage leader, working with them until they complete their GCSE examinations in 2012. The Heads of Aspen, Willow and Maple (Mr Taylor, Mr Paine and Mrs Breakspear) will be joined by the new Year 7s in September. From the end of June, assemblies will be different for the Years 7s and 8s, as the Year 9s will have their separate assemblies – this will make a big change to the atmosphere in Key Stage 3. One Year 9 commented that he *'just can't wait'* and another said that she *'can't wait to try out [her] options subjects as some are new and [she has] never done the subjects before at school.'*

At the graduation, there will be a tutor time in the morning followed by a quiz and a film after break. To

finish the day, there will be an awards assembly to show Year 9s' transition from Year 7 to Year 9. All this is to enable a smooth transition from KS3 to KS4 and for Mr David and the Key Stage 4 team to get a chance to know the students before they start Year 10 in September.

Following a conversation with Mr David, we found out that he is hoping for an enthusiastic, energetic and confident new Year Group that stays focused and concentrates hard on getting GCSEs to help them in the future and hoping for a smooth start to the new year. He wishes them all the best.

Reporter:
James Allright

Year 12 Film at the Royal College of Pathology

On Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 April, three Longsands students, Mitchell Harris, Lauren Marks and Matthew Standage had the opportunity to work with Dr Gareth Holsgrave at the Royal College of Pathology in London. The media students filmed Dr Holsgrave's presentation to the Royal College as his personal Media Team.

The students stayed at a London Hotel for the duration of the conference. Deputy Head of Sixth Form at the College, Mick Donnelly, commented that, "It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to use the skills, which they learn here everyday as part of their studies, in a practical real-life situation. We are thrilled that this opportunity was a huge success for the students involved, particularly as they would like to take on roles in the media at a professional level in the future."



Final reminder: Tesco vouchers

Thanks to those who have already sent in their Tesco vouchers for schools and clubs. Ours are due to be collected on Thursday 17 June, so if you have any left lying about, please send them in to the library before the end of school on Wednesday 16 June. Many Thanks

Mr Hynes. College Librarian.



Year 9 MFL Trips

On Wednesday 26 May, forty-seven Year 9 students travelled to France and the same number of students also visited Germany for the week. The Year 9 French trip was an adventure into the cultural depths of France ranging from visits to some of the most famous sights in the world such as the Eiffel Tower, La Notre Dame, Le Sacre Coeur and the Arc De Triumph – there was also a relaxing cruise on the River Seine on the Bateaux Mouches at the end of a fun packed day. It is hoped the visit will prove as memorable as the 2009 French trip, or even better.

We will tell you more about the trips in the next issue.

Reporters:
Kate Amos & Emily Hooker

World Cup 2010

This year, the World Cup will be hosted in South Africa. To celebrate this, the College has arranged some fun activities to get into the spirit of the game.

As you might know, recently every school (Aspen, Maple and Willow) had a draw to decide which international team each tutor group will be supporting. Key Stage 3 tutor groups will have to decorate their classrooms with the team colours and the best decorated classroom will win a prize.

Also to represent the beginning of the tournament, there will be a non-uniform day on 11 June and tutees will be expected to wear the colours of the country/flag of the team their tutor group picked in the draw.

Football matches will take place in Priory Park for both boys and girls and the teams will play in tutor groups. The dates for this are:

Year 9
Year 7 & 8

Period 1, Thursday 10 June
After school, Tuesday 22 June.

After half term, there will be a quiz about football; again there will be prizes for participants.



Reporters:
Emily Hooker & Joanne Childerley