



# Longsands College Newsletter

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October 2007

## From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Construction of the Creative Enterprise Centre will start on 22 October 2007 and is scheduled for completion by the end of June 2008. Students' response to safety instructions arising from construction of our main new building has been very sensible. We need all members of the College community to continue to respect health and safety notices and other preventative measures. This particular aspect of site development will affect an area adjacent to the main car park. The need for parents not to come on site in cars at the start and end of the day will become even more pressing.

The Governing Body will finalise its draft Discipline policy, which was distributed for consultation with the last newsletter, at its meeting in November. In the meantime, I have placed a copy of the latest version of the *Principal's Statement on Behaviour and Discipline* on the College website. Parents who wish to have a paper copy should request one via the Principal's PA.

It may be worth mentioning again that we are continuing to expand our website. Please do have a look at: [www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk) We realise that some visitors are automatically redirected to the cambsnet site. This should not be a problem, however, as you should find that you are able to access most or all of the information without difficulty. Much of the content reflects our specialist status in media technology and arts. The additional funding we receive has also been used to install plasma screens in various areas of the College, which are now being used to publicise daily information for students and visitors.

Unfortunately, we are having to address some problems that have arisen in the Kings Road area at lunchtimes and after school. It would appear that a small number of students have not shown respect to local residents or their property. Reminders about the need to demonstrate care and consideration have been given and, if need be, will be followed up by the use of sanction. Students must

remember that they are subject to College discipline on the way to and from school and at other times when they can be associated with the College.

Finally and in contrast to the paragraph above, may I take this opportunity to thank the student body in general for a very good start to the year. Zoning of the site appears to have had a positive impact in reducing litter and, indeed, providing a wider range of clearly delineated options for students during social time. The onset of winter always makes for greater challenge in keeping the College clean and tidy but there is every reason to believe that we can secure improvement this year.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Whatmough  
Principal

A short ceremony was held on Wednesday 10 October to celebrate the life of Matthew Dean with the installation of a bench in the Key Stage 4 courtyard. Members of his family were in attendance.

Below: Some of Matthew's friends at the ceremony.



### Congratulations to

....The Year 7 Girls' Netball and Year 8 Girls' Hockey Teams who won the District Championships.

### Learning Support

We are pleased to welcome four new Teaching Assistants: Mrs C Gates, Miss V Permal, Mrs L Smith and Miss R Wallace, bringing the number of TAs in the team to 26.

On Friday 28 September, a number of students from Year 7 and 8 were invited to join the celebrations at Samuel Pepys School on their achievement of Specialist Status for Cognition and Learning. Activities included African drumming, theatre group, dance workshops, media bus, face painting and sports. A good time was had by all!

Mrs Brodie

### Battle fields Trip

On 4 and 5 October, Year 10 History students went to Belgium on the Battlefields trip. The trip was intended to educate pupils about the First World War and the deaths of many men on the Western Front.

The trip was a follow-up of the work covered in the World War One topic which had been completed in the half term so far. It was a moving and busy two days with visits to memorials, cemeteries and trenches.

All students represented the college well, and the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Laura Kane

# Riding High!

During the summer holidays, Longsands students took part in a motorbike scheme run by *Natural High*. Stephen Mulgrew, Lee Bettle, and Connah Fairbrass (amongst others) took part. The course required dedication from its participants; both Stephen and Lee attended every Wednesday during the summer holidays.



Longsands Students at the track

*Stephen Mulgrew explains: When we first arrived at the centre, our tutor Mark talked to us about being safe on the bikes. He explained to us the importance of listening and thinking of others at all times. We then went into a big garage to get our overalls, gloves and helmets. After that, we went to look at the bikes and chose which one we wanted to ride.*

*At the track, we were shown how to start the bikes and rode around the track. I was on a pit bike with gears; I really enjoyed using this bike. There were different tracks to try, uneven tracks and others set up in a figure of eight. I went too fast around one of the bends and fell off. I was not injured as I was wearing all of the correct safety gear.*

*After lunch, everyone had to do a motorbike test called a CBT. For this test we had to ride around obstacle courses and cones without hitting them. If Mark raised his hand, we had to stop immediately - illustrating that we knew how to do an emergency stop. The test was to enable us to show that we understood how to be confident, and safe on a motorbike.*

Both Stephen and Lee really enjoyed the whole experience, and would love to do it again!

Stephen Mulgrew

## Young Leader

Congratulations to Jozef who not only successfully completed a Young Leaders course over the summer, but also gave an impressive talk on his experiences to members of the St Neots Rotary Club, an audience which included Mr Whatmough.

The course was part of the 'Natural High' scheme which is introducing a 'street dancing' course to Year 7 and 8 students from Thursday 11 October until the 6 December. For further details of this, please see your Head of School or Mrs Brown in the Key Stage 3 area.

## Exam Invigilation

We have vacancies in our invigilation team. If you are interested in being an invigilator, please contact:  
Mrs Carpenter, 01480 353535 ext. 234.

## Crossing Patrol Person Required

A vacancy exists for a crossing patrol person to spend a few hours each day helping children to cross safely between Huntingdon Street and Almond Road. If you are interested, please contact:

Councillor Robert Eaton  
Tel: 01480 381052 or email:  
[robert.eaton1@ntlworld.com](mailto:robert.eaton1@ntlworld.com)

Your details will then be forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council who will arrange the interview process. The post is subject to Child Protection checks.

# Rowing for England

In July, Longsands sixth formers **Joanna Fitzsimons** and **Rachael Crockford** stepped up a level in their rowing careers. Year 13 student **Jo Fitzsimons** has been rowing for 6 years, she finished at the top at the GB Junior Trials for sweep rowing on strokeside. This gained her a place in the top crew that was going to be raced at The Junior World Championships. **Jo** was joined by three crew members of which two came from Lady Eleanor Holles school and one from Headington Girls School to make up a Four.

This year, the World Rowing Championships was held in Beijing and was an Olympic test event to trial the brand new rowing lake and other procedures. **Jo's** heat was the first race to be held on the course in which they came 5th. As only the winning crew qualified directly into the 'A' final, this meant that the GB crew got into a repêchage (which is a second chance to get into the 'A' final) two days later. The GB crew had an extremely close race between France and Belarus, but made selection for the 'A' final. The next day, in their final, the four gave it their all and finished in 6th place behind China, Germany, Belarus, New Zealand and Italy.



Year 12 **Rachael Crockford** gained selection for the Under 16 Great Britain versus France match in the eight. She trialled in a four with three girls from her own club St Neots RC. Their four was then joined by four girls from George Herriot's school in Scotland to make up the eight. The event was held at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. The eight performed to the best of their ability for a scratch crew that had only had time to train together in the space of two days, but unfortunately lost to France by a few seconds.

Rachael Crockford

Photos: Above: Far right, Jo Fitzsimons  
Left: Second from left: Rachael Crockford

## 'Fit For Europe' Horizon Project

Eight students from Year 13 recently visited Bielefeld in Germany to take part in a weeklong sports festival alongside representatives from schools from Holland, Spain, Italy, Estonia and the hosts, Germany.

Activities included fitness, blading, hip hop, gymnastics, orienteering, plus basketball, volleyball and football competitions. All students were placed in mixed groups with the purpose of promoting understanding and awareness of other cultures.

All students enjoyed the experience, though by the end of the week they were ready for a well earned rest!



# CLUBS – AUTUMN TERM 2007

Before School 8.00/15 – 8.45am	Lunchtime 1.35 – 2.00pm	After School 3.15 – 4.15pm
<p><b><u>Monday</u></b></p> <p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11</p> <p>Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates (8.00am)</p>	<p>Learning Support - E2 Teaching Assistants (Homework/Activities Club)</p> <p>Year 7 Maths drop-in session - F3.4 Miss Morgan</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11</p> <p>Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates Netball (All Years) - Sports Hall</p> <p>Level 1 Sports Leaders Award - New Gym Years 7/8/9/10 Rugby Club - When light improves (see PE Staff)</p> <p>Horizon Dance Years 7/8/9 - until 5.00pm</p> <p>Six Pack Boys Dance Years 7/8/9 (Ritchie Hall Mr Griffiths)</p> <p>Years 7/8/9 Art Club - E2.1 Miss Perry Years 10/11 Art Club - E3.1 Mrs Gatward</p> <p>Swing Band - K1 Mr Dack</p>
<p><b><u>Tuesday</u></b></p> <p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11</p> <p>Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates (8.00am)</p>	<p>Learning Support - E2 Teaching Assistants (Homework/Activities Club)</p> <p>Years 7/8/9 Basketball - New Gym Mr Bircham</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11 Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates</p> <p>Adroit Dance - Ritchie Hall (until 5.30) Mr Griffiths</p> <p>Years 10/11 Art/Graphics - C5 (Technology Staff)</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday</u></b></p> <p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11</p> <p>Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates (8.00am)</p>	<p>Learning Support - E2 Teaching Assistants (Homework/Activities Club)</p> <p>Senior Hockey Club - Sports Hall Miss Smith</p> <p>Philosophy Club - B6 Miss Wade</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11 Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates</p> <p>Girls' Fixtures - Hockey and Netball</p> <p>Trampoline Club - Old Gym</p> <p>Year 8 Rugby - Field (PE Staff) Choir (All years) - Mr Dack</p> <p>School Production Arts Award Group Years 10/11/12/13</p> <p>Film Club Years 9/10 - D7 Miss Rees/Miss Plowman</p>
<p><b><u>Thursday</u></b></p> <p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11</p> <p>Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates (8.00am)</p>	<p>Learning Support - E2 Teaching Assistants (Homework/Activities Club)</p> <p>Year 9 Boys' Basketball - Old Gym</p> <p>Mr Bircham/Mr Marmion</p> <p>C.U. Group - D4 Miss Benson/ Mrs Turtle/Miss Anderson (Look out for posters and topics)</p> <p>Years 9/10 Radio Station - Media Room Miss Robson News Group - Miss Plowman</p> <p>ICT Coursework - B10/C12 Mr McNicol</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11</p> <p>Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates</p> <p>Years 8/9 Hockey club - Field Miss Smith (Football fixtures - End of Jan)</p> <p>Dance Leaders Award - Ritchie Hall Mr Griffiths</p> <p>Maths Club - F3.3 Mr Merson (3.10 - 4.00pm)</p> <p>ICT Coursework - B10/CA2 Mr McNicol</p> <p>Wind Band - K1 Mr Dack String Group - K4 Mrs Pearcey</p> <p>Years 10/11 Art Club - E2.1 Miss Perry</p>
<p><b><u>Friday</u></b></p> <p>Homework Club - A11 Mr Bates (8.00am)</p> <p>'Books for Breakfast' &amp; Reading Drop-in- <b>Library</b></p> <p>Mrs Breakspear/ Miss Wardle</p>	<p>Learning Support - E2 Teaching Assistants (Homework/Activities Club)</p> <p>KS4 Badminton – Sports Hall Mr Marmion</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library &amp; A11 Mr Hynes &amp; Mr Bates</p> <p>General Dance Club drop-in - Ritchie Hall Mr Griffiths</p> <p>Years 10 Dance Group - Old Gym (until 5.00pm) Mr Griffiths</p>