



Longsands College Newsletter

www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

Open Evening 2008.....

On Tuesday 14 October, Longsands closed its classroom doors to formal lessons at one o'clock and reopened at 5.30 pm for its annual Open Evening. It was an opportunity for students to show Year 6 pupils and their parents a view of life at Longsands, showcasing some of the activities which take place day to day.

More parents and children than ever before came along to explore the College's facilities and be inspired by students' work and achievements.

All departments were on show. The Languages Department's activities ranged from bingo and 'label the French towns on the map' to continental cheese tasting! Business

Studies students were displaying and selling their wares as part of the Young Enterprise programme. The RE Department worked on a 'belief tree' to be filled in by students, parents and Year 6s about their dreams, aspirations and beliefs. Whilst Food



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This term at Longsands...

Technology had a delicious range of refreshments on offer; in fact they nearly took over the entirety of the New Hall! Also on show were amazing dresses made and designed by Textiles students. Science, as always, went off with a bang! A range of explosions and 'magic-making' went on. There was even an experiment to show how much iron is contained in Kellogg's breakfast cereal.

It was the first occasion when 'the new build' has been on show to parents; on the evening it looked very impressive, with activities going on in many 'state of the art' classrooms. The English, Maths, Geography and Drama rooms, were alive with activities. The Geography Department showed a video on global warming and there was a room dedicated to geology and the study of rocks. There were performances in the new Drama studio from Year 7 and Year 10 students, with interludes from Year 11 dancers.

The staff and students involved ensured that the whole evening was a great success and we look forward to seeing many of the Year 6s in the coming year.



Reporter:
Francesca Cannon



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Longsands Road
St. Neots
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PE19 1LQ

New Building Launch

On Friday 12 September, as lessons were already underway, many local dignitaries and other esteemed guests arrived for the official opening of the new Longsands building. In attendance were Mr Whatmough (Principal), Councillor Robert Eaton, the Town Mayor, Councillor Tony Orgee, Leader of the County Council, and the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.

In the main entrance, students' art work was displayed. Mr Dack led the swing band through their favourite music, and student reporters circulated, snapping photos and interviewing the visitors. Food and refreshments were being set out, fresh from the canteen. Buzzing excitement was in the air.

Mr Whatmough called for the guests to take their seats. Each of the guests seated at the front gave a speech talking about how Longsands' students will benefit from the improved learning environment. All marvelled about the facilities in the 'new build', and how the new building will impact on students for years to come.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire pulled the cord to display the plaque, and declared the building formally open.



Reporter:
Grace Richards

Year 2 Multi-Skills

At the beginning of October, Longsands College hosted a 'Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival'. Multi-Skills is a series of non sport-specific activities that help young people develop the core skills of agility, balance and coordination.

Over the two days a total of 284 year 2 pupils attended the festival from Priory Infants, Crosshall Infants, Great Paxton, Little Paxton and Great Staughton primary schools. The festival was a massive success; all pupils who participated enjoyed themselves, whilst taking part in some extremely high quality sporting exercises.

The success of the festival was down to the 47 level 1 Sports Leaders from Years 10 & 11, who delivered the multi-skills activities. The Sports Leaders were a credit to the College, as they delivered the activities with confidence and maturity. All of the primary school teachers in attendance were full of praise for our students.



This festival plays a vital role in the primary school sports festival calendar as there are limited opportunities for Key Stage 1 pupils to take part in quality sporting activities. If you would like any information regarding future primary school festivals at Longsands College, then please contact Mr Bircham.

Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Festival



On Wednesday 24 September, Longsands College hosted a tag rugby festival for Year 5 & 6 pupils from our feeder primary schools. Although it proved to be a small affair with only 25 pupils attending from Priory Junior, Crosshall Junior, Little Paxton and Great Staughton primary schools, the festival was a great success. All pupils in attendance received an enjoyable experience and some high quality coaching from our own Year 11 rugby leader pupils (**Blair Christie, Michael Green, Daniel Steele, Jon Carpenter and Aidan McLean**). Special thanks go to St Neots Rugby Club, who helped to support this festival. If anyone would like any more information regarding St Neots Rugby Club please see Mr Bircham, who will be happy to help.

Anti-bullying Performance

'Awesome!' This was the view of a Year 6 student having watched the Longsands Community Theatre Anti-bullying performance.

A group of Year 12 students have given three performances, two at Longsands and another at St Neots Community College, to nearly 400 Year 6 students from the St Neots locality. The aim of the production was to raise awareness of two different types of bullying: cyber and deliberate isolation. The feelings that are created for different people involved in the bullying were also explored. The audience was encouraged to join in at strategic points and a forum half way through allowed them to express their views of what they had seen. The Year 6 students were very keen to get involved with the discussions and took away lots of ideas and observations to follow up when back in the classroom.



The performances form part of a St Neots-wide project with all schools exploring different types of bullying and strategies for dealing with it.

Many thanks to all the performers, the Technical Crew and Mr Griffiths for three great productions!

Mrs Binning

Raising Participation: DCSF Message for Parents of Year 7

This message is intended for the parents of Year 7 in September 2008. The text is adapted from an original sent to all secondary schools by the government's Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Subject to approval by Parliament, new reforms will increase the minimum age at which young people can leave learning to 17 from 2013, and 18 from 2015.

Your child's year group is the first cohort that will be directly affected by this change, in particular the expectation that everyone will continue to participate until they are at least 17. Young people will be able to do this in a number of ways, such as continuing in full-time education, including school or college, work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship, or part-time education or training, alongside a full time job.

The intention is that all young people will have the opportunity to get involved in something valuable and engaging. By 2013, there will be a new curriculum and qualifications on offer that will provide a suitable learning opportunity for every young person, including an entitlement to study the new Diplomas at three different levels and a commitment to provide an apprenticeship place for all young people who want one and meet the entry requirements. There will be improved careers advice and support services to make sure all parents and young people have the information they need to make appropriate choices. Financial and other forms of support will be developed to help overcome barriers to young people accessing provision.

If you would like to find out more information on raising the participation age or any of the other developments in 14-19 education, please visit the DCSF website on <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19>

Science & National Events

Students in KS3 and KS5 are looking forward to taking part in two national events over the coming weeks. A group of 15 students from across year 9 have been selected to attend a preview of the Royal Institute's televised Christmas Lecture. The group will go to Cambridge to watch this year's lecture, which will delve into the rapidly evolving world of computers. A full report will appear in our next newsletter.

Meanwhile, 4 students from the sixth form are

preparing to represent the College as part of the 'Debating Matters' competition. This prestigious event is sponsored by groups including the Medical Research Council and Pfizer. This year the event will take place in Cambridge and forms a part of Cambridge University's 'Festival of Ideas'. We wish **Niamh, Jacob, Heather and Jack** every success as they compete against local schools that include private and grammar schools for a possible place to represent Cambridge in the East Anglian Regional Finals.

Before School 8.00/8.15 - 8.45 am	Lunchtime 1.30 - 2.00 pm	After School 3.15 - 4.00/5.30 pm
<p><u>Monday</u></p> <p>Homework Club Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates (8.00 am)</p>	<p>Learning Support KS3 Homework Club - E2 Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Choir (All Yrs) - Mr Dack</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Hockey Yr 8 - Miss Veitch Netball Yr 9 - Miss Hingle</p> <p>*LC Production / LC Sound –Media Lab Mr Neate/Mr Noble/KS4 Students</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates</p> <p>Art Club Yrs 7/8/9 - E3.2 Miss Sutton Art Club Yrs 10/11 - E3.1 Mrs Gatward</p> <p>Aladdin Rehearsals - Ritchie Hall & Studio Miss Wray - Until 5.00pm</p> <p>Yr 7 Computer Programming - C12 Mr McNicol</p> <p>Film Makers Club Yrs 7/8 - Media Lab Mr Gamby</p> <p>Horizon Dance Leaders - Yrs 8/9 Six Pack Boys Dance - Yrs 8/9 (+7 later on in year)</p> <p>Young Enterprise Yrs 12/13 - Miss Burt</p> <p>Swing Band - K1 Mr Dack</p> <p>Technology Course Work Club - D3.2/3 Mrs Bailey/Mrs Hopewell</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Netball Yrs 7/11 - Miss Hingle Rugby Yrs 7/8 - Mr Marmion/Mr Bircham Sports Leaders Yr 11 - Miss Smith</p>
<p><u>Tuesday</u></p> <p>Homework Club Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates (8.00 am)</p>	<p>Learning Support KS3 Homework Club - E2 Teaching Assistants</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Rugby Yr 7 - Mr Marmion Girls Basketball Yrs 7/8/9 - Miss Hingle Rowing Yr 7 - Mr Bircham Hockey Yr 9 - Miss Smith</p> <p>Debating Club - (All Yrs) H3.3 Mr Bowman (Look out for posters and topics)</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates</p> <p>Aladdin Rehearsals - Ritchie Hall & Studio Miss Wray - Until 5.00pm</p> <p>Adroit Dance - Yrs 9/10/11 (Select Group)</p> <p>Clarinet Group - K1 Mr Dack</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Rugby Yr 9 - Mr Bircham</p>
<p><u>Wednesday</u></p> <p>Homework Club Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates (8.00 am)</p>	<p>Learning Support KS3 Homework Club - E2 Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Flute Group - K1 Miss Cann</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates</p> <p>Arts Award Group - Yrs 10/11/12/13 leading Yrs 7/8/9</p> <p>Technology Course Work Club - D3.2/3 Mrs Bailey/Mrs Hopewell</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Trampoline - Yrs 7/8/9 Mr Simpson Badminton - Mr Marmion Girls Fixtures: Yrs 8/9 - Hockey Yrs 7/11 - Netball</p>
<p><u>Thursday</u></p> <p>Homework Club Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates (8.00 am)</p>	<p>Learning Support KS3 Homework Club - E2 Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Christian Union Group - D4 Miss Benson/Miss Anderson/Miss Sutton (Look out for posters and topics)</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Basketball Yrs 7/8/9 - Mr Marmion/Mr Simpson Rowing Yr 8 - Mr Bircham</p> <p>String Group - K1 Mrs Pearcey</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates</p> <p>Film Makers Club Yrs 7/8 - Media Lab Mr Gamby</p> <p>Dance Leaders Award Group Yrs 7/8/9 (Select Group)</p> <p>Technology Course Work Club - D3.2/ Mrs Bailey/Mrs Hopewell</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Boys Fixtures</p>
<p><u>Friday</u></p> <p>Homework Club Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates (8.00 am)</p>	<p>Learning Support KS3 Homework Club - E2 Teaching Assistants</p> <p>*Enterprise (All Yrs) - G2 Miss Burt</p> <p>Chess Club - (All Yrs) H3.3 Mr Bowman</p> <p>*SPORT</p> <p>Girls Football Yrs 7/8 - Miss Hingle</p>	<p>Homework Club - Library & A11 Mr Hynes & Mr Bates</p> <p>General Dance Club Drop-In - Ritchie Hall Ten Dancers (Select Yr 10 dance group) - Old Gym</p> <p>Technology Course Work Club - D3.2/3 Mrs Bailey/Mrs Hopewell</p>
<p>*Other clubs - Look out for further notices.</p>	<p>Food, Creative Writing, Technology, Textiles, Gardening Club.</p>	

***Please check your Tutor notice boards as clubs marked with an asterisk are subject to change.**

We hope that you find something here that you would like to try. It's a great opportunity for you to have a go at something new, to meet new friends and to have fun. You can also access this information from your form notice board, on the intranet at Longsands and on the Longsands Website www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk.