



Longsands Academy Newsletter

www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

From the Executive Principal

December 2011
at Longsands...

Dear Parents

I am writing this letter in the days leading up to the KS3 Bazaar on Thursday in the final week of term. The main focus of this year's fund raising is to help a Year 11 student, Dean Symmons, purchase a sports wheelchair. Many parents will have seen a press report in the local newspaper about Dean's injuries, which stemmed from a movement in a PE lesson when he twisted round to strike a softball. We are delighted that Dean is now back at school and determined to pursue his interest in sport.

I was pleased earlier in the term to attend a meeting of the Huntingdonshire Secondary Education Partnership where students from across the district launched their Student Voice website. This will provide a means for young people to share experiences between schools and debate issues of interest to them.

Within Longsands, we have been conducting interviews with a whole range of students about their experience of the Academy. We are grateful to the large number of students (70+) who have talked with us about such matters as their attendance on school trips; their use of computer facilities including the recently

launched VLE; participation in schemes such as Sports Leaders. We hope to follow up this survey with a more general evaluation of students' perceptions next term.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank students and staff for the myriad of activities not so far mentioned including: Duke of Edinburgh Award; Enterprise Week; Salvation Army Sleep Out; Ice Skating Trip; Sixth Form Quiz; cross country, rugby, football, netball and other sports. The list is formidable and by no means complete; it reflects the commitment of staff and students not only to lessons but to everything else that helps us fulfil our aims.

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year,

Robert Whatmough



End of Term Arrangements

Periods 1 - 4 normal

1.20 - 2.00 pm Lunch as normal

2.00 - 2.30 pm Tutor Time

Buses leave 2.40 pm

Longsands' Rugby Club

Year 8 Awards

Top Try Scorer - Malcolm Milligan

Most Improved - Nick Duncan

Coach's Player - Rory Dingemans

Team Player of the Season - Tom Wade

Congratulations to all who have participated this term!



Longsands Road
St. Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 1LQ

Telephone: 01480 35 35 35

E-Mail: enquiries@longsands.cambs.sch.uk

POLAND 2011



On Friday 20 October, twenty Year 10 and eleven Year 11 RE GCSE students flew to Poland to visit Auschwitz. The trip was four days long and included tours around Auschwitz 1 and 2. To get to Auschwitz 2 the students had to walk the route that the prisoners would have taken in order to carry the materials to build Auschwitz 2. The students also met a surviving prisoner and he told his story about his time there, and the impact that this has had on his life. The visit was a life-changing experience

for all those who travelled, it was moving *and* enjoyable for all students that went—an experience they will never forget. It is hoped that the RE Department will run the trip again next year - many thanks to Mrs Boast and Mr Nunnery who organised the visit.

Maddi Hall

Anti-Bullying Workshop

On Monday 14 November, twelve students from Longsands and Ernulf met at the Creativexchange; their aim was to write a new anti-bullying policy.

The morning began with a simple card-sort activity, investigating different types of bullying. Each group read through a number of different scenarios and discussed whether or not it should be classed as bullying. A short discussion followed during which it was concluded that it is often hard to give a fixed definition of bullying.

The group then looked at their bullying scenarios and tried to divide these up into different categories of bullying, for example homophobic bullying and collusion bullying.

After this session, pupils worked individually and were asked to think about their own experiences with bullying. They filled in a sheet that identified which type of bullying was the most common in their Year Group. The feedback results revealed that the type of bullying experienced and the frequency did indeed change according to the Year Group. Key Stage 3 pupils reported that name calling and cyber bullying were the main problem where as Key Stage 5 pupils explained how bullying was very uncommon and had dramatically reduced.

After a short break the groups split into Key Stages and started to discuss where they should go for help and whether or not existing help was sufficient. Many felt that telling a teacher or a form tutor was the best option and Longsands' pupils mentioned the anonymous link on the website.

Some of the activities involved using helpful methods to stop bullying such as listening, understanding the most common bullying methods, supporting the victim and helping the bully to recognise the need to change his/her behaviours. *"It was good to know the different aspects of bullying and how it can be solved,"* said Emily Hooker.

The morning concluded with an activity focused on dealing with bullying and what types of support should be offered to both the bully and the victim. Groups were asked to brainstorm their ideas and then create a detailed mind map with all their ideas. The feedback session was very interesting and the majority of pupils were in agreement that the bully and the victim need the same kind of support.

Staff from both Longsands and Ernulf will now start to put together the ideas from this session to create a new document which fully encompasses student views.

A big thank you to the following pupils; **Harry Rudling, Harriet Glanville, Charlotte Cooper, Emily Hooker, Melissa Jarvis, Nick Severn and Amy Tyler.**



Input from Megan Parker

News in Brief

What have Key Stage 4 been up to?

Business Visits

At the start of November, a business trip took place for Year 10 students to Peterborough FC. Students had a tour led by a footballer who trains at the stadium. *"It was a really fun day out"*, Crista, a business student who part in the trip commented. Students then had to write an assignment on the stadium the next day.

Christmas Quiz

At the beginning of December, tutor groups received a Christmas quiz involving tasks such as guessing letters from different company logos, naming Santa's reindeers and many other Christmas questions. There are four prizes up for grabs and the winning forms will share edible rewards!

Christmas Carol Service

On Wednesday 14 December at St Mary The Virgin Church, the choir service was held. Beautiful singing from students and staff made the night an amazing success and a perfect way to start to feel the Christmas spirit. A carol for the choir was composed by music teacher, Mr Dack featuring a solo in the second verse by Miss Robertson.

Kate Amos, Megan Parker and Maddi Hall

"It's All About YOUTH"

The Integrated Youth Support Service and Connexions have changed their name. Since 1 December the Connexions service has become known as "Youth Support Service".

Leys visit closes a fantastic season

Longsands Academy Year 8 XV took on one of the biggest challenges of their season on Monday night, with a tough trip to a strong Leys XV in Cambridge-shire.

The boys arrived in awe of the fantastic facilities The Leys School provided and this was reflected in the first half of the game. The home side controlled possession of the ball well, with the Longsands boys on the back foot. A fantastic move from the home side's back line, followed with a powerful scrum, secured two unconverted tries for the Leys to go 10-0 up. Inspirational play from **Issac Clarke** side-stepping numerous players to clear the ball from inside the half was rewarded with a good 5-minute period of steady scrums and rucks in the opponent's half. Longsands swarmed forward, sensing a chance for points, but were kept out by a sturdy defence. Moments later, a loose pass was intercepted following forward pressure, with a pacey fullback running the length of the pitch to crash over the line to go 17-0 up at half time.

The Longsands boys re-grouped following stern words at half time and responded brilliantly. A superb move from our own 5m line involving **Lewis Ager** handing off an opponent to secure a great pass to **Mikey Duddridge**, who danced his way through a purposeful Leys prop to pass the ball to **Malcolm Milligan**, who ran half the pitch to bundle and ground the ball just before the dead ball zone to make it 17-5. Longsands started to develop momentum and minutes later forwards **Tom Wade** and **Kieran Cartwright** drove straight through an on rushing defence inside their half, to create an



opportunity for Milligan to score, if it was not for a great tackle from the home side's full back.

Longsands tired after the 50-minute mark and the intensity of the Leys game grew along with the pressure. The Leys backs started to gain the upper hand and missed tackles allowed the opposition to bundle over for two converted tries to make the final score 31-5.

Mr Hood, the Year 8 coach, commented '*The game at the Leys was fast and physical and the boys really got to understand what playing under pressure is all about. There were some tired legs out there but they should be very happy with what they have achieved over the season. The boys have made tremendous progress over the season and have never given up. If these boys stay together throughout their Longsands rugby club careers, they have a bright future. Congratulations to the team and I look forward to more fantastic rugby next season at Longsands Academy.*'

Exciting cup runs for Y8 and Y9 boys football

Both the Year 8 and Year 9 boys football teams have enjoyed great success in the National Schools Cup.

Year 8

After getting a bye into round 2, the boys have beaten Parkside College, Cambridge, and a team from St Albans. In the fifth round they went to Luton and came back with a great 4-2 victory. They now have a sixth round tie away to Eastbury comprehensive, Barking in the new year.

Year 9

The boys have played some lovely football this year and are really gelling into a strong team. The attitude is excellent and there is a strong desire to work hard and support one another.

They have beaten St Ivo 3-0, Sawtry 1-0, Sharnbrook Upper 2-1 and then faced old rivals Hinchingsbrooke in the fourth round. The boys produced an awesome performance to demolish their opponents 5-0 to set up an away trip to Norfolk against one of last year's semi finalists. Once again the boys played really well and ran out 6-2 winners despite being behind twice. They are off to Norfolk again for the sixth round just before Christmas.

Both teams deserve praise to have reached the last 32 as both competitions start out with over 800 schools!

Duke of Edinburgh Award 2011

This year, the Year 10s have been given the opportunity to take part in the D of E Bronze award. The D of E is a programme that offers students the chance to take part in a series of activity weekends and walks and, at the end, a final expedition. It gives students life skills such as: cooking, team work and camping. The school offers the Bronze and Silver awards for Years 10 and up. The D of E is run by Mrs Marsh and Mr Diggory. This year, it is testament to last year's successful students as more Year 10s have applied to do the course than ever before. The course runs throughout the year and into Year 11. Watch out in future editions for news updates.

Maddi Hall



St Neots Learning Partnership – Behaviour and Discipline Policy

The Behaviour and Discipline Policy has been updated and can be found on the Academy website www.longlands.cambs.sch.uk under Policies in Parent Information.



Sleep-out!

50 Sixth Form students at Longlands Academy slept out over-night in cardboard boxes on the evening of Saturday 3 December, from midnight until 7.00 am, accompanied by 8 members of staff. The students were sponsored and all monies raised will be donated to the Salvation Army Homeless Project in London for Rough Sleepers. It is hoped that the event will raise £2,000.

Mick Donnelly (Deputy Head of Sixth Form) said *'We are immensely proud of our young people, who willingly give their time to help others who are less fortunate than themselves'*.

The 'Sleep-out' has taken place for over 15 years and has raised in excess of £20,000. Students from the Academy will work in a Salvation Army Centre in London this week, where they will distribute clothes collected through the Academy, and prepare food for the homeless.

6th Form Update

This half term has been a very busy one for Year 12 and 13 who are making full use of the new study facilities in the Sixth Form Centre. The Sixth Form have been involved in a number of extra-curricular activities this term. These have included raising money for Children in Need. Many students dressed up to support this cause and the Sixth Form Committee also organised a cake sale. In total £550 was raised (a record amount). A number of students have also been involved in our annual appeal to support the work of the Salvation Army with the homeless. On Saturday 3 December 50 students and staff took part in a sponsored 'Sleep-Out', spending a night outside, mirroring the conditions experienced by the homeless.

In addition, we have been collecting clothing which a group of students, Mr Donnelly and Mr Blacow will deliver to the Regent Street Hall shelter in London. At the time of writing everyone is looking forward to the Sixth Form Quiz, organised by the Committee with the excellent quizmaster, Mr Jones.

The Sixth Form is grateful to everyone who has supported us with these activities this term.

Next term will begin with a focus on examination preparation. We will be visited again by Will Ord, an Educational Advisor, who will offer students further advice about revision skills and how to maximise their learning. Year 13 will be involved in external examinations during January and in the week beginning Monday 16 January, Year 12 will have internal examinations in all their subjects. This will be followed by the next round of assessments and Parents' Evening on Thursday 9 February, providing an opportunity to discuss progress and reflect upon the mock examination results.



Global Enterprise Week

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 in it. Longsands' Global Enterprise Week plays an integral role in this. During the week in November, Key Stage 3 & 4 students follow a series of Globally Themed Enterprise activities and other international themes across the curriculum in some of their lessons. KS3 students were asked to make radio podcasts about perceived views on international enterprise week and their views compared with others'.



For Key Stage 3, Global Enterprise Week involved a variety of themed activities, such as designing trainers, the Snack Attack project amongst others. Each form was split up into groups, and each group took part in different activities, such as designing trainers, make a form board etc. The idea of the internationally themed activities was to encourage students to think differently and make their entries stand out for a chance to win. Jack commented: *'I think that enterprise means risk taking, creativity, new ideas and knowledge. It is important because it builds businesses and makes people money.'*



Key Stage 4's involvement in the week was slightly different. We had to create a company/business involving the 8 Olympic values; determination, friendship, peace/unity, fair play, optimism, respect, and inspirational. Individuals had to pitch to their form group and then whoever won out of each form went to the finals, in front of local business men/women. It was a daunting but rewarding event for all those who participated.



The Academy Canteen joined in by serving Internationally themed food during the week.

Jack Davies, Joanne Childerley and Emily Hooker

Visual Arts Flash Studio

The Visual Arts Department at Longsands Academy now has an excellent Studio Flash Photography set up. This means that students can now take photos in a fully controlled environment the results are really professional in terms of students' use of light. Key Stage 4 and 5 visual artists have taken some excellent shots whilst also experimenting with intensity and distance of light from the subject being photographed. Students are using the soft box for a soft effect of lighting and reflector for harsh and directed light. There are also a range of backdrops which have been used for various professional effects.

Subject areas have involved; identity, fashion, narrative, movement, drama, culture, hobbies, surrealism, self-image and ageing.

The two published photos are by our students and were created in the Flash Studio as responses to specific themes and artists.



Year 10 District Netball Tournament

A squad of nine travelled to the Ivo on a cold December evening, upbeat from the squad's previous excellent performances and ready to take on anyone in the district.

The team were drawn in pool A with Hinchingsbrooke A, St Ivo A and St Peter's. The first match was against Hinchingsbrooke, the game was played at a fast pace with passes short and snappy. The match started quite evenly with both teams taking their opportunities to score, then Hinchingsbrooke started to take the lead through a number of defensive penalties. Our shooters landed some excellent shots, but time was against us. The final score was 12-3 to Hinchingsbrooke. The second pool match was against Ivo A; this game, too started at a great pace, with some great shots from both sets of shooters with Georgia Compson and Leigh-Anna Murley landing some shots right on the edge of the circle with absolute ease. Unfortunately Ivo A picked up the pace of the game and they beat us 11—5. The final pool game was against St Peter's: this game was always going to be tight. Minimising the penalty count was on the cards and the team didn't disappoint. With crisp passes flowing through the channels, and interceptions flying in all over the court, the team took the game from defence to attack with ease.

The final score was 5-4, with some exceptional play by a number of players, but thanks to some outstanding shooting by Katie Wanless, we held on to victory.

Longsands Year 10 Netball squad

Katie Bates
Georgia Compson
Rebecca Ho
Leigh-Anna Murley
Lauren Darling
Rosie Eida
Katie Wanless
Erin Jamieson
Beth Cole



Horizon Schools' Comenius Project 2011

The group of schools involved includes; Longsands, Xativa (Spain), Bielefeld (Germany) and Coornhert (Holland). The European Union has sponsored each school's participation in the project and each has received money from the European Union to fund all aspects of the project from travel to staff cover and visits for the schools when students travel to the respective countries.

By the end of the project there will have been 4 meetings of students and staff. Longsands hosted visitors from our partner schools in October.

At each event, there have been 4 or 5 students from each school present.

The project provides opportunities for staff and students to work collaboratively across nations and disciplines. There are 3 major areas of interest on history, biodiversity and enterprise. Students from each school have been offered the opportunity to take part in the different aspects of the project. A small group of students then bring the results of their school surveys and their findings to shared across the 4 schools at subsequent meetings.

There have been opportunities for students to visit local zoos and the chance to meet and to talk to a variety of professionals in the zoological field. Teachers and students learn about a variety of curricular areas and methods, which could help to inform future planning and facilitate the sharing of 'best practice' in the partner schools.

Staff at Longsands prepared the third meeting on exploring the entrepreneurial activities of zoos, which in turn provide the funding to allow them to function. Students involved have been using the enterprise centres at Colchester and Linton zoos, which have provided support whilst exploring economic aspects and problems of modern zoos. Students developed a generic educational resource which challenges the player to 'run' their zoo in the most enterprising fashion (Zoo Monopoly!). They have also created a marketing video for the 21st Century Zoo.

The project will be completed in May 2012 and students wishing to participate should apply to Dr Miller for further information: please speak to Dr Miller at the Academy. The Academy and the visiting teachers and students would like to thank all the families who hosted and entertained visitors during their visit in October.

Emergency Closure

We expect to operate similar procedures to last year for emergency closures, eg as a result of adverse weather conditions. While we have established the possibility of contacting parents by email or text message, this may only be possible if particular staff can get into school. For that reason, local radio is likely to be the principal means of communication. We may also use the front page of our website.

The decision on whether or not to close has to be based on the likelihood of sufficient staff being able to get to work for us to be able to deliver a reasonable curriculum. Because many staff live some distance from the Academy, conditions in St Neots are usually not the determining factor.

These are the key points from previous issued advice:

Emergency Closure Before School

If the school is to be closed, we inform the local radio station at the earliest opportunity. Our main line of communication will be through Radio Cambridgeshire on 96.0 FM.

Closure During the Day

It is essential that each student knows what she or he is to do if the school has to close suddenly in the interests of safety. The temptation is to say, "Wait at school until I can pick you up." However, if roads are blocked or trains cancelled, this option can be far from satisfactory. For most young people, waiting for you to pick them up in the warmth of a friend's home in St Neots where telephone contact is relatively easy and there could be a bed for the night is a far better prospect.

The health and safety of students will always be our first consideration. However, experience tells us that students get very anxious indeed when they are left in school. The situation of staff who stay behind to look after students but who also have families waiting for them needs to be borne in mind.

Sometimes coach companies ask for students to be released early – a request that has to be met in fairness to the drivers and the majority of students living in a particular location. In this case, students need a refuge near home if they cannot gain access to their own house.

Please could every parent discuss with their son or daughter what you wish them to do in the kind of circumstances outlined above.

School Closures on the Cambridgeshire County Council Website

The Academy also notifies Cambridgeshire County Council of the closure of the school in the event of bad weather as soon as decision to close the school has been made. Parents can access the site via the following:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolclosure>

Please note: In order to find out whether there is information relating to your school, first use the A-Z to find your school and then refer to the current status, indicated in the table. Where status is blank the Local Authority has not received any information.

Parents and students are also advised to listen out for school closure information on the local radio during bad weather.

Dean's Trust



I know that life was about to get a whole lot harder. I've been back at school for just over a month and the support I've had from friends and teachers is unbelievable. They've made me feel as if I never went away."

Key Stage 3 Bazaar to raise money for Dean's Trust

The annual Key Stage 3 Christmas Bazaar is, this year, solely for the purpose of raising money to go towards Dean's new wheelchair. This will improve his comfort and the lighter weight of the chair will also prevent any shoulder strain. All students attending, whether you're running the stalls or simply getting involved in the range of activities available, are contributing to the efforts towards raising funds to help Dean continue being the cheerful, fun and entertaining part of our school community that he always has been. Everyone's care and donations are greatly appreciated by Dean and his family. Dean says *"It's an amazing feeling to have so many people whom I don't necessarily know give up their free time just to help me out, I can't explain how grateful I am that they're doing this for me."*

Dean Symmons, an enthusiastic and hilarious asset to our school, experienced a life changing ordeal at just the age of 15. Just 24 hours after playing softball in PE like any other student, Dean collapsed in the exam hall in which he was about to sit his Science GCSE.

Even after 6 weeks doctors were still unsure as to what had truly happened, although eventually they diagnosed the situation. In a game of softball in PE just the day before he had collapsed, Dean had swung to hit the ball, consequently dislodging a disc in his spine and grinding against his spinal cord. This caused his blood to clot, stopping the flow to his legs. Since then, he has lived in his wheelchair, dealing with the everyday tasks of teenage life.

What are your plans for the future?

"One of my dreams would be to participate in the Paralympics playing wheelchair basketball or, on the flip side, I would like my own business in the technology market, working with gadgets, laptops, phones and things! I am also going to volunteer as a wheelchair skills instructor at a group called The Back-Up Trust who help people who are new to their wheelchair to be able to gain independence. I've taught friends in a similar situation how to use their wheelchair, so it's nice to put a smile on someone's face when you've passed on your knowledge."

How do you cope with the situation you're in?

"In Stoke Mandeville Spinal Unit I met a load of people who helped me and supported me when I needed them. They gave me tips on how to live my life with a SCI (Spinal Cord Injury) and I really appreciated their support. I still keep in contact with the friends I made and they still help me along the way. When I left hospital I had my head held high and I was ready for the challenge ahead, but little did

For further contributions, you can find out more information on how to get involved on Dean's charity website: www.deanstrust.com

Or if you happen to see him round, he is happy to give you his personalised wristband for just a small donation of a minimum of £2.

