



# Longsands College Newsletter

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## Specialist Status

Six months on, Specialist Media Arts status is having real impact on students across the College. Perhaps the most exciting development has been the opening of our new Media Lab which contains a 15 station video editing suite and a broadcast capable radio station, overseen by Mr Gamby the media technician. Year 12 and 13 media students are already using the facility on a daily basis and next term, Year 9 English students will use it to complete their advertising project.



New ICT courses including a Diploma in Digital Applications in KS4 and Computer Studies in Year 12 have already started this academic year. We have also seen a good take up of two groups for Media Studies in Year 10 complementing the Year 11 groups currently studying the subject as part of their English GCSE. Across the curriculum, some GCSE MFL students are beginning to use the radio facility to create support material for exam revision for their peers to use and work is being planned with the History and Music departments to enhance the delivery of the Key Stage 3 curriculum.

Supporting work in the wider community is integral to our Specialist Status and we are



Richard Heathcote & Mr Gamby in the Radio Studio.

committed to this. The College is working closely with some of our primary partner schools to support their KS2 literacy initiatives. Pupils of Priory Junior School are borrowing eight camera kits to take with them on their trip to the Isle of Wight this summer to help them create video diaries. We have also been able to assist in the purchase of equipment for Samuel Pepys School and have furnished them with a new PA system and two video cameras, a G5 I Mac computer for editing and a laptop to assist with presentations.

We are also working with St Neots Community College offering their students access to our new facilities and equipment as well as professional training and have so far run a Scriptwriting and Filming/Editing course. We hope to collaborate in the summer term in producing a film made by students from both colleges.

Work started so far is only the tip of the iceberg and it is hoped that links made with institutions such as the BBC, TSG Graphics and The NHS Media Partnership will act as springboards for wider work with local and regional business communities.

Mr Adams

## Developments

### Community Governor

The term of office of a Community Governor, Peter Astley, is shortly due to come to an end. As a parent of the College, you may nominate a Community Governor. Persons nominated must live or work in the community served by the College and must be committed to the good governance and success of the College.

However, some people may not be appointed as Community Governors. These are:

- registered pupils at the College;
- parents of students currently at Longsands College;
- people employed to work at Longsands College;
- elected members or employees of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Please contact Mrs Scott, Clerk to the Governors for a nomination form.

# A Journey into CyberSpace

On 12th December, eight Year 12 students studying AS Computing visited Microsoft Research Laboratories in Cambridge for the annual Christmas lecture. The purpose of the day was to inspire students to consider Computer Science as a career. Many students from sixth forms around the Cambridge area attended. We heard from various researchers about new developments in the field of Computer Science and also got to play on the new Xbox 360s! Each student received a goody bag from Microsoft

with some free software. It was a really interesting day, which gave a real insight into the work being done at Microsoft and elsewhere in pushing forward the frontiers of computing.



From the student perspective next issue...

*Specialist Status and the new technologies in College.*

## Individual Learning Planning



## College Developments

Individual learning planning (ILP) was first introduced, in its present form, last academic year and was targeted at Year 9 students. This year has seen the process roll out to include Years 10 and 11.

ILP is a process that helps students reflect upon their skills, qualities and performance in all aspects of their lives and as a consequence to recognise where their strengths and areas for improvement lie. This level of understanding is crucial to

being able to set targets for improvement;  
make informed decisions about subject choice;  
thinking about the future and the

direction they could take. In short, the aim is to help students become more effective learners by being more engaged in their own education.

Each term, the students have a programme of activities to follow that are specifically set to help them reflect, plan and address their needs at that stage in their time with us. Every student will have a meeting with their tutor, and in some instances with a senior member of staff, on at least two occasions during the year to discuss issues pertinent to their progress. The students' responses to the activities undertaken are used as the basis for the discussion during these interviews.

ILP is a national initiative and in Cambridgeshire the process is being undertaken in partnership with Connexions, the body that provides services for young people. We therefore have the support and materials needed to deliver this work drawing on expertise from a wide range of sources.

Inevitably, as with any new initiative, a lot of time and effort goes into planning and implementing it and we will continue to monitor our response to it and make any necessary developmental changes as it becomes more embedded in the work of the College.

Mr Heathcote  
ILP Co-Ordinator

## Year 8 & Year 10 trips to France and Germany

Thank you to those who have paid the second instalment for these trips. The arrangements for these trips are going well and further details will be forwarded to you at information evenings in May. If you have not paid the second payment of £100 please could you give this to Mrs Severn in resources as soon as possible.

Mrs Thomason

## Performing Arts

Bugsy Malone a musical production will be shown in the Autumn Term. Rehearsals are already underway; students with the help of staff are designing the stage set and costumes. We will be asking for help from students and parents in the near future.

Daniel Cooper (Year 9)

## Interactive Whiteboards

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At Longsands, students and teachers are now using interactive whiteboards. These are whiteboards controlled by a laptop computer, which can be worked from the front of the classroom by a touch sensitive screen. This of course means that students in lessons can join in by going to the front and clicking, dragging and typing their way through the lesson's work.

The boards come with 4 coloured pens and a rubber so you can write directly onto the board. In all, £30,000 has been spent on 25 boards around the school (varying in size). These boards have been set up in most departments around the school. People who have used them have only given them praise; *"they're fun & they teach you at the same time"* says pupil **Patrick McAteer**. *"They're much better than our old boards much cooler too,"* commented **James Philp**.

**Jonathan Lundie (Year 9)**

## Special Guests

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A production crew from BBC Panorama visited Longsands in January to film footage for a documentary concerning the life of Art teacher Pamela Coughlan. Pamela was knocked down in an accident in St Neots in 1974. A Year 11 assembly and a film were filmed as were students arriving at College. The morning filming in and around St Neots, as well as the accident for the documentary due to be aired in January.



## Creative Minds, Creative Writing

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For the first time ever, the English department have entered the work of a whole year group for a national competition.

All students in Year 7 have been working on an entry for the Times Educational Supplement 'Write Away' competition - with some extremely impressive results. (Let's hope that the judges will be as impressed as the English teachers have been!)

Just in case they lack the expert judgement of Longsands English teachers, we have provided some rewards of our own. One student from each Year 7 class will be awarded a ticket for a trip to the theatre to see a performance of Michael Morpurgo's *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The criteria for the prize is "most improved writer". Additionally, Mr Whatmough (originally an English teacher himself!) has been asked to judge the overall winner. Well done, Year 7!

Mrs Chilman

## Pupil Support Teams

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### Aspen

Coming up this term in Aspen School, there is a Year 9 trip to a theatrical play and the same for Year 7. Aspen are doing really well with the shoe boxes and have got approximately 30 boxes without including those from Maple and Willow. Some forms are already well into raising money for their chosen charity, there have been sponsored silences and 7HGG have washed staff cars. Well done Aspen!

**Ashley Ancell (Year 9)**

### Maple

Well done to Maple for holding so many charity fundraising events. Maple are holding a number of charity raising events such as a sponsored silence, run and sponsored spell. So we hope that many of the Key Stage 3 students will be joining in. Good luck!

**Mohima Chowdury (Year 9)**

### Find out about Fostering

*Extract from a letter received in College:*

If you would like to find out about fostering, please telephone Sylvia Nicklin (Fostering Co-ordinator for Thames Valley) on 0800 587 7791 for details.

You are welcome to come for a coffee and to learn about fostering. I am available at various times and days to suit.



## College Events/Dates

### Spring Term 2006

Half Term 13–17 February  
Spring Term Closes Friday 31 March

### Parents' Evenings

Year 9	21 February
Year 8	8 March
Year 7	21 March
Year 12	20 April

## Contact the College

Tel: 01480 353535  
Fax: 01480 375757  
E-Mail: [enquires@longsands.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:enquires@longsands.cambs.sch.uk)

### Write:

Longsands College  
Longsands Road  
St. Neots  
Cambridgeshire  
PE19 1LQ

### Newsletter Team

Many thanks to the newsletter team for all their hard work this issue;

Matthew Usher (Year 12)  
Ashley Ancell (Year 9)  
Mohima Chowdury (Year 9)  
Daniel Cooper (Year 9)  
Peter Howard (Year 9)  
Jonathan Lundie (Year 9)

### CAMBRIDGE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB V HERTFORD

2.30 pm SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Parking is free at Wests Renault Park,  
Grantchester Rd.

Try out rugby for yourself, on Sunday mornings

## Extra Curricular Activities

	1.35pm - 2.00pm	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Monday	Hockey Year 7	Football - All years Netball - All years Sports Leaders Award Art Club In E2.1 with Miss Perry
Tuesday	Basketball (Year 7 & 8)	
Wednesday	Gymnastics Years 7, 8 & 9  Maths Club -Year 7	Fixtures - Girls Netball Hockey Brass Band in K4 ICT: CC4G & ICT: Claymation
Thursday	Rugby - Year 7  Rugby - Year 8  Fitness Club - Year 7  Saxophone Group In K2	Fixtures - Boys Rugby Trampolining Club Girls' Football Running Club - Sports' Hall Wind Band in K1 String Group in K4 ICT: RPG & ICT: Flash Actionsript Rock Solid C.U. Discussion Group
Friday  (Books Over Breakfast - Library)	Basketball - Girls - All Years Basketball - Boys - Ys 9, 10 & 11	



### Every Day...

1.35pm - 2.00pm  
*Learning Support in E2  
Homework/Activities Club*

3.15pm - 4.15pm  
*Homework Club in Library*

We have lots of clubs running  
this term at Longsands...

Find out more at:  
[www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/ks3clubs](http://www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/ks3clubs)