



# From the Principal



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## Longsands Letter Happy Easter



### Holiday and Term Dates – amendment

Please note that Monday, 11 April 2005 is a Staff Development Day. Students are due back in College on **Tuesday, 12 April 2005** after the Easter break.

This Easter newsletter is being issued with two supplements: an update on progress towards specialist status and a report on the health survey undertaken by students in years 8 and 10. We look forward to reporting on the recent parent survey in the summer term.

Our bid for specialist status is now backed by Microsoft UK. The support promised is financial and practical, with software licences and advisory services valued by the DfES at £15,000. Perhaps even more significant in the long term is the endorsement by so prominent an international company of the College's drive to be at the leading edge of information and communications technology in schools.

The health survey offers many insights into students' health-related behaviour. The report is quite long but I hope that many parents will read it and, perhaps, talk over aspects of the findings with their own sons and daughters.

Some parents will be aware that we have been reviewing our College uniform for some time. There are likely to be modifications in time for September 2005. These will be compulsory, however, only for the new intake. Parents of students already on roll can continue to make

purchases of existing uniform as far as Westgate stocks allow. The changes to be made are driven by continuing supply problems as well as the wish for all students to look smart throughout the year. I shall write to parents specifically on this topic as soon as details can be confirmed.

The second half of this term has been very difficult in terms of staff absence. This situation has arisen from a combination of circumstances of which illness is the most obvious factor. It has affected many lessons and some parents' evenings. I should like to thank those parents who, even when expressing concern, have started from the premise that we always seek to minimise the effect of absence and give priority to examination classes. Thanks are also due to colleagues, who have helped by setting work and showing flexibility in providing direct input into additional classes.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to the College on Tuesday 12 April.

Robert Whatmough  
 Principal

## Rotary Awards Competition

Earlier this week, Rotary President Terry Hayward presented cash prizes and certificates to the winners of the Longsands Photography Competition.

The competition, open to all 1600 students at Longsands, was held last summer. Students were invited to submit photographs taken during the summer break for exhibition in the College.

**Emily Ingle** (15) was inspired by a flight to Köln in Germany. "I took a photograph through the aeroplane window of the clouds and shades of blue sky above them. The window itself made an interesting frame for the shot."

**Vicky Warwick** (15) was the overall competition winner and received £50. Her shot of a face distorted by being seen through water was one she had been planning to take for some time. "I used Photoshop to tidy up the image but the distortion is natural. I really enjoy photography – it's great fun as well as being very creative."

St Neots Rotary President, Terry Hayward commented, "The St Neots Rotary Club was very pleased to sponsor the competition. This is a new venture for us in partnership with Longsands. The idea is about to be taken up at District level."

The College will hold its next competition in the autumn term to give students an opportunity to take photographs that capture the spirit of the autumn and winter months.



Left to Right: Emily Ingle, Terry Hayward and Vicky Warwick.

# Books over Breakfast!

To all pupils in KS3! We meet between 8.30 and 9.00am on a Friday morning in the library. So if you are not sure what to read, or want to know what else there is to read – come along! We will soon be shadowing the Carnegie Prize, and making our own recommendations for the final award. You will have a chance to read the short-listed books and put your own comments on the Carnegie website!



Mrs Breakspear

What are you waiting for? Come along!

## Learning Support

If you have concerns about your child's special educational needs, please contact Mrs A Brodie (SENCO). Mrs Brodie attends all Key Stage 3 and 4 Parents' Evenings and is often able to see parents without an appointment.

Learning Support welcomes three new Teaching Assistants: Mrs Bates, Miss Fordham and Mr Howell. Mr Betts has left us to join Connexions. We are grateful for the work he did here at Longsands.

# It's Readathon time again!

Once again, in the English Department we are celebrating reading – with the aim of raising money for The Roald Dahl Foundation and Sargent Cancer Care for Children. Each pupil in Year 7 and 8 read as many books as possible for sponsorship between 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005. They had their own Readathon booklet with literacy tasks and challenges to be completed by Easter. They have been encouraged to read whenever possible and as much as they can!

Sponsorship was per book, per page, or a flat rate. ALL proceeds are to go to the children's charities. More information can be found on [www.readathon.org](http://www.readathon.org). Fiction and non-fiction books could be read. For their own safety, pupils are reminded only to ask people that they know for sponsorship.



Books Over Breakfast

Please support and encourage them!

# M\*\*\*\*th!

For their English SATs examinations in May, Year 9 students have to study and answer a question on the 'Scottish Play'. On Thursday 3 March, the Box Clever Theatre Company performed a highly entertaining and thought-provoking interpretation for the whole Year Group.

Not only did the actors make this demanding text highly accessible by combining modern English with the original text, but they also encouraged students to think very carefully about what motivated Macbeth to turn from a 'noble Macbeth' to a 'bloody butcher', who murdered both his king and best friend, Banquo. Some students even had the opportunity to think about what the ghost of the murdered Banquo would have said to Macbeth (if only Shakespeare had thought to have written that scene!).



Overall, students were very impressed by the play, describing the performance as 'fantastic'. Many students felt that seeing a live performance, and listening to actors discussing their characters, really helped develop their understanding of the work. Look out for the photos – coming soon – not to mention some very impressive SATs results, too, no doubt.

Samantha Dix plays Banquo's Ghost.

# Parent Governors

The Governing Body is pleased to welcome two parent governors:

- Mr Adrian Cassidy (re-election);
- Mrs A Hutchinson (new member).

A full list of the Governing Body may be obtained on request from Mrs Scott, Clerk to the Governing Body, at the College.

## The Brain Box

How much do you know?

What is the collective noun for a group of herons?

- a.) a herd of herons
- b.) a flock of herons
- c.) a siege of herons

Spellchecker

**Science:**  
laboratory  
thermometer  
vessel

**RE:**  
baptism  
celebrate  
prejudice

**English:**  
separate  
beginning  
rhythm



Answer: c) a siege

## Revision Guides

The Technology Department has a few remaining revision guides for Textiles, Food and Child Development. These are available for Year 10 and 11 students to buy at a cost of £3.50. These will really help to top up your grade and can be obtained from your teacher in D block.

# Snowed In!

Year 12 AS/A2 Geographers went to Derbyshire, staying in Hartington Youth Hostel: 42 students with Mrs Carpenter, Mr Carr, Mr Godbolt and Dr Fazel. Despite heavy snowfalls, the group completed all tasks, including footpath survey, river survey of the Dove Valley and urban work in Sheffield. A great time was had by all.



## Enterprise Pathfinder

On Thursday 3rd March a number of Year 10 Students took part in one of the College's Enterprise Pathfinder events. They worked with people from Cambridge Young Enterprise in an activity that enabled them to learn about how business operates. They were given problems to solve and their ability to cope with creative solutions to tasks was developed.

## Tesco Vouchers

Tesco computers for schools vouchers will be handed out from 7th March until 15th May. Last year we received another two computers from the scheme and these are now on the network for students to use. Over the years we have had 19 computers from Tesco, so the scheme is well worth it.

This year we aim to better last year's collection, and would like to aim for three computers (the best we have ever achieved is four in one year). As usual, the collection point is in the library. As soon as you collect your vouchers bring them to college as this makes it a lot easier for the students who help count them out. They have to be bundled into 100s!

A computer 'costs' 12910 vouchers, so our target of three computers will cost just short of 39000 which, in real terms is £390000 of shopping. It sounds a huge amount, but over 1000 families over ten weeks, it works out at four vouchers or £40 per week per family and should be attainable. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Andrew Hynes

## Congratulations to . . . Year 13 student **Michael Williams**

was presented with an Outstanding Service Award by the Chief Fire Officer for the county. This was the first time in eight years that such an award has been made in the county. **Michael** is a Volunteer Fire Cadet with Huntingdon Fire Station, he was given the award for his Fire Safety Presentations for younger students.



## Year 12 visit Jaguar

The Year 12 Business Studies students visited the Jaguar plant and motor museum in Coventry. They were given an excellent tour of the museum where they were able to experience some of the traditions involved in jaguar cars. They were also given a detailed description of the production process at jaguar and how the company hopes to maintain its presence in the exclusive cars market. Thanks to Mr Paine and Miss Burt for accompanying the trip.



MJS

## Life as an Entrepreneur

As part of the College's work as an Enterprise Pathfinder, a number of Year 10 students took part in an Enterprise in Action day. The students experienced a variety of activities where they had to use creativity and problem solving skills to respond to a number of different activities. As part of the process they also learnt about the constraints that business faces and about financial management.

My thanks to Cambridgeshire Young Enterprise and Business Link for their involvement in the day. Special thanks also to Mr Paine, Mrs Harding and Miss Burt for their help and encouragement during the day.

Mr Seery



## From the LinC ...

Butterfly Garden Project: LinC students, Miss Robbins, Miss Aldridge from Natural High and Friends of Sudbury Meadows are taking part in designing, planning and creating a Butterfly Garden in part of Sudbury Meadows, St Neots. This is a long-term project, which we hope will be of benefit to everyone in St Neots.

Two trips that ran in conjunction with Natural High, were rewards for students who have performed well at school, the students went Snowboarding on 7 March and Skiing on 14 March.

These are taster sessions. Well done to the chosen students.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form visit Prague.

During our visit to Prague we stayed in the 'Hotel Admiral', situated on the river in a wonderful setting. Despite the freezing cold and snowy weather we enjoyed a number of day-trips. The first visit was to Skoda where we were able to watch Skoda favorit being built and the production of VW, Audi and Skoda engines. The second visit was to the Staropramen Brewery where we saw how beer is made and also enjoyed a tasting! In both of these visits we were able to learn how the businesses have benefited from investment by western European companies. Our third visit was to the Terezin Camp; this was a place where Jews were held captive in terrible conditions during the Second World War, a harrowing but informative experience for all.

For our final set of visits, the Economics students had a useful presentation at the CERGE Institute where they were able to discuss the progress the Czech republic has made during its transition towards membership of the EU. The remainder of the party visited the Barrandov film studios where they were able to see the operation of the set where such films as Mission Impossible 2 were made. Many thanks to Mr Seery, Mr Neate and Mrs Harding.



Julie Steele

My goodness it was cold listening to the guide!



# Duke of Edinburgh

The bronze award group went on their first practice walk, followed by an activity day at Grafham Water. They experienced snow, bright sun and rain, all in the space of an hour. They managed to get to Grafham Water from Offord D'Arcy without getting lost.



Jennifer Harris commented: "Overall, despite the wind and the rain, I had an interesting and fun experience on Saturday; the activities at Grafham Water were brilliant." Laura Burman added: "The activities at Grafham were fun. However, the walk was really tiring!"



# Adroit Dancers Tour Italy

The College's excellent dance group have taken part in workshops visiting 'traditional' 16<sup>th</sup> century and 'Ancient Roman' theatres, as well as performing their 'Vivaldi' piece 'The Snow Queen'. Mrs Daw, a supporter of the Dance Department's activities for twenty years, accompanied the students, and Mr Clarke, the College's Co-ordinator for Horizon International Schools events, organised the visit.

Students who travelled to Italy were **Zoe Hellewell, Zoe Childerley, Jacqueline Bush** (Year 11), **Rachel Mercer** (Year 10) and **Hannah Court** (Year 13). The work the students explore runs parallel to the A2 Dance GCE curriculum and prepares for university auditions.



# Fair Trade Fortnight at Longsands

6<sup>th</sup> Formers at the college are running an Oxfam Fair Trade Stall for two weeks. They have raised over £800 so far. The products that they have been selling in their spare time at lunchtime and recreation range from chocolate bars from Ghana to fruit juices from all over the world. Fair Trade was taught in Geography lessons throughout the two week spell to raise students' awareness and understanding about the origins of the consumables they encounter every day.



# Year 12 at Grafton Trade Fair



All 3 Longsands Young Enterprise companies took part in the Grafton Trade fair on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. All made a very pleasing level of sales and profit whilst Nusic promotions were narrowly beaten to the prize of the 'Best Company on the day' award. The companies will soon be taking part in the local heats, to be held here at Longsands in the near future.



## Next Issue, look out for.....

- Year 12 on their Work Experience in Germany.
- Linc photos of the Garden Project.



Longsands College