



Longsands College Newsletter

Vol 5
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March 2007

From the Principal

Dear Parents

The positive impact of Specialist Status in Media Technology and Art is now extending across the whole College. Many parents will have seen the BBC Look East report on 22 March concerning the College's participation in the BBC School Report News Day. This featured students in Year 8, who acted as reporters and editors in a nationwide exercise organised by the BBC and prepared in detail by staff within the College. Much of their work is featured on the College website - www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk - from where the Look East report can also be downloaded. The commitment of the BBC as a public service broadcaster to working in close collaboration with schools is to be commended. The BBC's own national and local websites contain much further information as well as offering links to individual institutions including our own.

In a more general way, as we develop our in-house skills and an increasing number of households have internet access, the College website will take on even greater significance. There is already a considerable amount of reference material available and we have started the process of uploading key policy documents. At the same time, we are creating a Learning Gateway, which will enable students to access curriculum related materials from home or elsewhere. This development is still at the piloting stage but will be rolled out to students in all Years over the next few months.

We are aware that parents will increasingly look to the website for urgent notices, e.g. about unforeseen school closure. Unfortunately, because of the way the site is hosted, this is still more difficult for us in school than it is for most organisations. Nevertheless, we will continue to work on this issue.

After over two years of preparation, it is exciting to think that work will now start on building new facilities for Longsands students. However, may I draw the attention of students and parents to the safety notice on page 2. It is an obvious point but everyone needs to be aware that the construction process itself will cause some changes to normal routine especially in the areas of the slip road, Kings Road entrance and car park, and the tennis courts. The County Council and the contractor have given thorough attention to health and safety in all aspects of the work. Students can assist by staying well away from fenced-off areas and taking extra care when moving about the site. Briefings have already been given in assembly and appropriate safety notices will be displayed.

Finally, I should like to congratulate Year 11 on the commitment and enthusiasm they showed during the recent Revision Morning. This was facilitated by a lively and entertaining external speaker, who spends much of his time in schools. He was genuinely impressed by the good-humoured and very positive approach shown by the year group. I hope that some of the techniques highlighted by the event will be practised by students as they plan and implement their revision schedule.

Yours sincerely

Robert Whatmough
Principal

Key Stage 3 Raise Money

Key Stage 3 classes are raising money for charity. Amongst them, 8KTT is raising money for The Acorn Cancer Support Group which is a charity that helps friends and family who have lost someone to cancer, by sharing their experiences. 8KTT have already tried to raise money by selling cards but only raised a small amount. They hope to be more successful with a cake sale later on this term. Miss Tamkin commented, "I think that raising money for charity is a good way to help the community and the people that are not as fortunate as me and you."

Year 8 pupil

Longsands' students have been doing their bit for charity by taking part in "RED NOSE DAY" and "FAIRTRADE" events.

On Friday 16 March the school had a 'wear your own clothes day'. Students and staff brought in £1 for the opportunity to swap school uniform for casual clothes. All charity money raised will go to help others.

26 February–11 March, Sixth Formers and Year 9s sold Fairtrade food at break times and the money raised will go directly to the producers. Fair-trade produce has been very popular with students and staff. There have been Fairtrade assemblies for Key Stage 3 from 9JB, form time activities and Fairtrade treasure hunts in RE lessons.

Jack 8DBB

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

Work on the first phase of the College rebuilding programme will start during and immediately after the Easter break.

Main areas affected:

- Kings Road entrance and car park (severely restricted facilities);
- main entrance and slip road (increased traffic although contractors will be seeking to avoid the start and end of the College day and break/lunchtime);
- tennis court area (completely out of use and fenced off).

Key points for students:

- keep away from fenced off areas;
- take extra care when outside the College building;
- do not use the slip road at any time;
- respect safety notices and any other advice given;
- show understanding of the fact that temporary inconvenience, e.g. restricted space for football, is necessary to achieve long-term benefit.

Key points for parents:

- please avoid coming on site in cars during the working day;
- please deliver or drop off your son or daughter away from the College entrance and site;
- although some additional temporary parking may be created, space will be at a premium and you cannot assume that you will be able to park on site for parents' evenings or individual meetings.

Key point for us all:

- health and safety come first - this applies to all members of the College community and all visitors.

Working in close liaison with the College, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Contractor have given considerable thought not only to health and safety but also to ways in which the normal life of the College can continue relatively undisturbed over the coming months. The co-operation and assistance of students, parents and visitors are needed to make the most of this detailed preparation.

Safety Notice 1: March 2007

Film Critic Competition

Entries to the recent Young Film Critic Competition for students in Key Stages 3 & 4 have now been judged. The winners are:

Key Stage 3

Winner Oliver Blackburn
 2nd Lewis Miller
 3rd Oliver Bill

Key Stage 4

Winner Robert Gooch
 2nd Carisha Surkitt
 3rd Lewis Fox



From L to R: Lewis Miller, Robert Gooch, Mr Whatmough (Principal), Oliver Blackburn, Oliver Bill

See below for winning entries.

Mr Adams

Film Reviews

Ben Stiller is having a Nightmare at the museum



Graphically perfected images. Emotionally touching story. Gut - busting comedy. Yes I suppose I quite liked this film. Ben Stiller plays a divorced single parent, going in and out of jobs like a revolving door, which makes his son miserable. Worried that his son is drifting away from him, he jumps at a job offer as a night guard at the Museum Of Natural History (which is how the story fits into the title). Sit at a desk for a few hours, then pick up the phone if you hear anything. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Well despite the girl behind me constantly booting my chair. I thoroughly enjoyed watching him find out otherwise.

Ben Stiller never ceases to amaze me; from 'Dodgeball' to 'Meet the Parents' and his hilarious sequel 'Meet the Fockers'. But I was purely excited and thrilled to see him playing fetch with a suspiciously puppy-resembling dinosaur and ride through the centre of a war between cowboys (leader played by Own Wilson) and the Romans (leader played by Steve Coogan) on the back of President Teddy Roosevelt's Horse.

All the characters' personalities and stories begin to be uncovered and entwined in one way or another. Ben Stiller struggles to learn how to cope with a key-stealing, freely urinating monkey named Dexter. In the mean time, Teddy observes his beloved Sacagawea from afar, Attila the Hun and the Civil War soldiers cause mischief (and pain), and everybody tries to understand and get along with one another... but they don't understand very well...

Oliver Blackburn

The Fast and The Furious - Tokyo Drift Review

'You Ain't Outta Control, You Ain't In Control'

The Fast And The Furious Tokyo Drift is an action-packed car-thrilling, crime film. This is the third in the series of the 'Fast and The Furious'. In the film, Bow Bow (Twinkie) and Lucas Black (Sean Boswell) both give very convincing performances.

Sean Boswell (Lucas Black) travels to Tokyo in order to avoid a jail sentence and lives with his military father. In a low rent section of the city, he gets caught up in the world of underground Drift Racing. Will he manage to defeat the Drift King or will it all go up in smoke?

The Fast and The Furious is a film for teenage boys and car lovers. This is a film that puts you on the edge of your seat. It has a very good story line and is extremely exciting so put your seatbelts on and enjoy.

In my opinion the performance of Lucas Black is particularly convincing and exciting. The underground car park setting where they race helps to create the right atmosphere for the film. The special effects for Tokyo Drift were simply quite incredible and cleverly done. The car crashes and stunts in it were awesome and looked real. Also the soundtrack was effective because it paired up well with the film. I also like that type of music so it appeals to me.

My overall opinion on this film is that it is the drive of a lifetime.

Star rating 9/10

Robert Gooch (10MPS)

African Connection

Longsands College is partnered with Mackay Memorial School in Uganda. Students have been selling products made by the students in Uganda during their lunch breaks to raise money for the Ugandan school. In the two lunchtimes following 16 March, Longsands' students raised around £95.

Both students and staff at Longsands have been wowed by the quality of the handmade jewellery, handbags, purses, leather goods, art work, key rings and bowls. Longsands' students have been keen to raise money for the Mackay Memorial School, which has only 20 computers for its 600 students; this is a huge contrast when compared to Longsands which currently has around 400 computers and 1700 students.



6th Formers selling Ugandan Crafts

Groundforce Meets Springwatch

Half term saw an incredible transformation of the Science Garden. From an impenetrable mass of tree stumps and stinging nettles, we are now well on the way to developing a variety of habitats including a woodland; a native meadow; a pond; a dry gravel area and our very own allotment. Many thanks for this are due to Di Jarvis, Dave Walker and their teams, who together with some really hard working Sixth Formers brought about this amazing change.

The Art Department are working on the walls and have some fabulous designs which they have already begun, thus transforming the hard landscaping.

A gardening club on Friday afternoons is responsible for the ongoing planting and maintenance of this area. This work was greatly helped by donations of

equipment from Frosts Garden Centre of Brampton, which we greatly appreciate. Should anybody else wish to join this band of gardening enthusiasts we would love to see you after school on Fridays in G14.

The last really exciting part of this project will be the installation of a nest box and camera, which will ensure that we can follow the progress of whatever bird family decides to make it their home!

Dr Mulcahy

For PE fixtures for the Summer Term, go to:
www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk

Year 11 Revision Morning

A tremendous amount of hard work and effort was displayed by Year 11 students as they fully engaged in an array of revision activities on Thursday 15 March.

To support proceedings, the whole Year Group was addressed by Mr Roy Leighton, motivational speaker, who has worked with the BBC extensively. Mr Leighton inspired ways in which the brain works.

For the remainder of the day, students were issued with the Year 11 Revision booklet and then took part in a further eight revision sessions, looking at many different techniques, such as the use of mnemonics, flash-cards and activities to deal with stress.

To close this event Mr Leighton addressed the whole Year Group again, to praise them for their level of effort and focus. Feedback from Year 11 suggests

that they have gained a tremendous amount of encouragement from this event and are feeling increasingly confident about their ability to manage their own time, construct thorough revision programmes, and aim to maximise their level of success in the forthcoming GCSE exams.

As a continued source of motivation, final plans are being made for the Year 11 Prom, which is to take place after the GCSEs. It is envisaged that tickets will go on sale in the week after the Easter holidays and students will receive further information from Mr David, who is also very happy to be contacted now.

Mr Carroll



On Thursday 22 March, fifty Year 8 students from Longsands College created their own TV and Radio News reports. Students met at 8.45 am to discuss the day's events and decide on their headlines. Working in groups, students created their own radio broadcasts and TV reports. In total, almost 270 students have taken part in the different elements of the BBC event finding their own stories and creating their own special report.

Others worked on iMac software Comic Life to recreate national headlines and news reports. Students worked with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Assistant Editor Alison Dawes and Look East Reporter Emma Baugh who offered them advice and expertise for their own broadcasts. Students at Longsands College joined 100 schools nationwide participating in the BBC's School Report.

Year 8 student Grace commented: "It has been a really fun day. We have been making and researching our own stories and interviewing different people, and you feel so professional when you are doing it!" Richard added: "I am the cameraman, and I have been learning

when and how to use a video camera appropriately. I have been learning how to be a better reporter and how to use different shot sizes."

Students worked to tight deadlines throughout the day to write, plan, and edit their stories. Their reports can be watched and listened to worldwide on the web. www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk



Year 8 students work with BBC Look East Reporter

Dance Show Stunner At Longsands College

Last month all the dance groups of Longsands College came together to perform in the February soiree. The audience watched happily as all the dancers showcased the dances they had been learning for the last few months.

The dance groups consisted of all different Year Groups including those doing their GCSEs. On 7 February all the dance groups including Horizon, Adroit and the GCSE dancers performed dances of many different styles from contemporary to hip-hop.

A member of Adroit and Horizon said that she thoroughly enjoyed the dance show and felt that it was a great way to show her friends and family

how hard she had been working on her dances over the past few months

The person who organised the dance show was Longsands' dance teacher Mr Griffiths.

Mr Griffiths is the man to thank for putting together all the dance groups and helping to organise everything on the night. The technical crew of Longsands College should also be thanked as they took care of all the light and sound for the dances.

The parents who watched the show were very impressed by all the different genres of dance. One mum said that she was very proud of her daughter

Keren Jones Year 8

Rob Scores Winning Goal

8HGG beat 8HDB at the interform basketball match in February. It was the final, everyone was worried. All were tense and then out of nowhere Rob (8HGG) shocked the whole of Year 8 with the winning goal!

Everybody was going mad! It was a shock to the whole Year Group. It was crazy. Form tutor Miss Gardiner was amazed when Rob changed the direction of the match. The final score was a close 3-2 to 8HGG.

This memory will stay in people's minds for ages - teachers as well as pupils, the day when Rob scored the winning basket!

Joe Bradbury Year 8



A Skydiver's Dream...



The canyon walkway is 4,000 ft up!

Today, people came in their droves to see the opening of the new Grand Canyon skywalk. Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon was there to open it and he was the first person to walk on it.

Rising 4,000 ft above the canyon floor and sticking 70 ft out from the canyon rim, this is now the highest structure in the world.

It can stand up to 100 mph winds

and can hold up to 35,000 tonnes of weight as well as a 8.0 magnitude earthquake. The Indians in the surrounding area say they want to draw tourists to this but some are concerned that this is the burial grounds for their ancestors and don't want it disturbed.

Visitors will have to pay \$25 (around about £13) to walk over the 3 inch thick glass but that is on top of the fee for entering the National Park.

Construction of the Skywalk began in March 2004 - and will open to the public on 28 March with 120 people allowed on the platform at any one time.

I asked Alex if he would go on the skywalk and he said "I would be-

cause I could see the sights and tell everyone that I have walked on it".

I also asked Felix if he would walk over it and he said "yes, I would because it would be something cool that I could do".

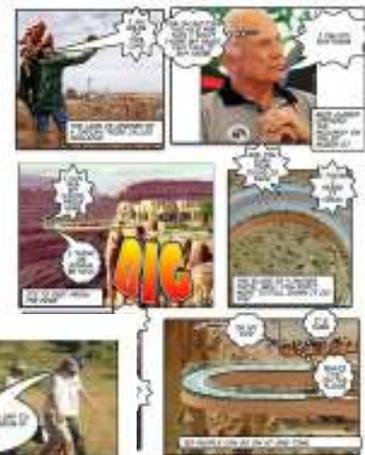


It sticks 70ft out from the canyon wall!

News Report by Jacob Year 8
Images: AP

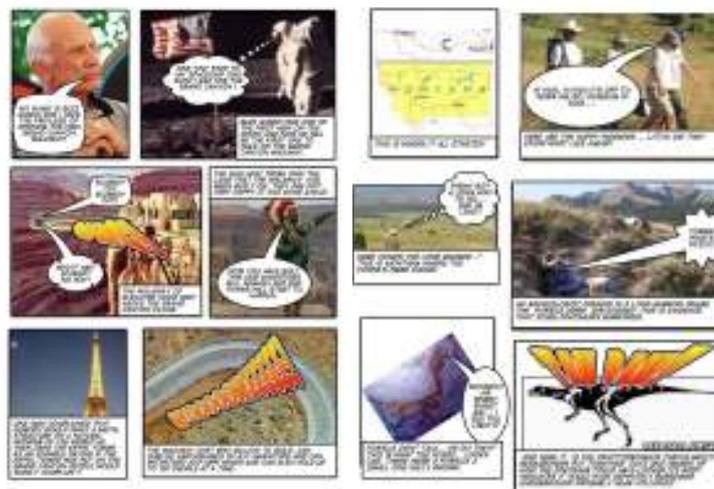
Comic Life!

Cartoons of the Day's Headlines by Year 8
Thursday 22 March



Work by:
Ashleigh-Marie Coombes
Jade Lioce
James Chapman
Alistair Guinee
Chloe Smith
Matthew Card
Jacob Huster
Amy Thomas

Photos:AP



To see the cartoons of the day's headlines in full go to http://www.longsands.cambs.sch.uk/bbc_school_report/comic_report.htm.