

NEWS

LINK

The Landau Forte College Newsletter

Autumn 2000

A Level Results Remain High!

One of the most tense moments in the life of a young person must be those final seconds waiting for examination results, particularly when they need specific grades to fulfil hopes of a place at university. That is just how it was for the Year 13 students on 17 August. For the third year in succession the college A - E pass rate at A Level reached 97% with a further improvement in the average points score per entry taking the average grade to above a C. Congratulations must go to the students who worked so hard to gain their achievements and thanks to the staff who helped make it possible.



Students and Tutors await the results.

All of the students who were hoping to go to university gained places, with the vast majority obtaining their first or second choice and a small number passing through the clearing process. As always there are those who have achieved beyond their expectations, while others had not quite achieved what they had hoped for. This is the harsh reality. Thanks to the efforts of several staff who made themselves available both on the results day and in the days following, life was put in perspective and these students were well-supported throughout as they made alternative plans.

Amongst the results there were many fine individual achievements with the highest grades going to Adam



Passing on good news: L-R: Lauren Baker, Gemma Jones and Helen Jankowska.

White who achieved 5 grade A passes at A Level and grade A in AS Further Mathematics - a truly outstanding achievement for which he deserves our congratulations. Adam is the first male student of the College to go onto Oxford University.

As always, no sooner are post-16 results over than the GCSE/GNVQ results arrive. For some students this is the first awakening to the realities of life. Whilst broader and less difficult than A Level the sheer volume makes GCSE/GNVQ a challenging affair. Of course the outcomes do determine the opportunities that might be available beyond 16 whether in further education or employment.

The College had shown tremendous progress in its results over the last three years from 67% to 86% 5 A* - C grades. For the Year 11 of 1999/2000 we expected the result to be somewhere between those two figures and so were not surprised when we found that 71% of our students had achieved 5A* - C grades. Without question for some individuals the results could have been better and greater determination and application would have brought greater rewards. That said, many students of all abilities demonstrated fine achievements with some excellent individual performances which have enabled them to progress in their chosen direction. Conversations with many students showed that they almost all felt that they had gained what they deserved!

Finally, our End of Key Stage 3 Tests deserve a mention: the Year 9 students in 1999/2000 achieved the highest results in the College's history with 92% in Mathematics and English and 86% in Science gaining level 5 and above. Congratulations to all involved.

S. Whiteley



Success! L-R: Joanne Walters, Rachel Jeffery, Ian Curran, Tom Fearn, Jemma Kew, Holly Hamilton.

LANDAU FORTE

Principal's Message



Following the excitement of the examination results the College has settled down to work in the new academic year. We are pleased to welcome our new Year 7 students along with those students in Year 12 who are joining us for the first time. I hope your time at the College is both enjoyable and successful. I am especially pleased to welcome back to the College many of the students who did so well at GCSE and GNVQ in Year 11. I am sure that they can go from strength to strength; many have learned from their previous experiences and started the year with a renewed determination.

As reported in the last edition of Newlink we had several staff changes for the new academic year. I am pleased to welcome all of our new staff and wish them well in their career at the College.

From 1 October 2000 our catering operation has been running on an in-house basis. I am delighted to announce that Sue Morgan, previously the Assistant Manager under the Sodhexo contract arrangements, has accepted our offer to become the new Catering Manager. Plans are already underway to improve the quality of the food and service provided in the restaurant. Both the students and staff who use the restaurant have been asked for their views and we are all looking forward to the benefits of the new arrangements. I would like to express my thanks to Julie Cowley who has been the Restaurant Manager for six years and worked successfully under difficult circumstances. Julie has decided to move on to lead a much bigger operation and we wish her well in her new career at Rolls-Royce.

As always the college remains heavily over-subscribed with all year groups being full and a long holding list for places. For the academic year 2001/2002 we have already received more than 500 applications and will be allocating places by the end of this Calendar Year.

The College environment is very important to learning and student progress; we are

constantly striving to maintain its quality. During this year we have invested in redecoration and renewing furniture in several rooms. This is an ongoing process and is helped by all college users showing consideration for the environment. We would always prefer to replace items because of use; never because of abuse!

In terms of learning the major change for this academic year is the launch of Curriculum 2000 involving an increased breadth of study in Post-16. We are well placed to make this transition as smooth as possible. Undoubtedly there will be many challenges that emerge as in any new venture. I am confident that our dedicated team of staff will support the students well. The students themselves must adjust quickly to the new demands of post-16 education and the pace of the new curriculum.

Finally to everyone involved with the College please accept my thanks for your contribution to the successes of last year and my good wishes for the academic year 2000/2001.

S. Whiteley

Principal

INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

**The ratio $a : b = 2 : 3$, and
the ratio $a : c = 3 : 4$.**

What is the ratio $b : c$?

- | | |
|----------|------|
| A) 1 : 8 | B) 1 |
| : 2 | |
| C) 8 : 9 | D) 9 |
| : 8 | |
| E) 2 : 1 | |

(Answer on p. 20)

From The Dome to The park



Thirteen of our students and two of our ex-students took part in the Derby City 'Our Town' story.

Sponsored by McDonalds, the group of seventy students from 20 schools across the city travelled to the Dome in July and performed three times in the specially constructed theatre. The project was a great success with hundreds of people praising the group for their energy, teamwork and talent. The performance was so good that the group was invited to perform at the "Concert in The Park" in

September for 20,000 people. Congratulations to our students who helped make the project a success and take some good news about Derby to the Dome.

In The Street

The Dance Band, singers and dancers entertained shoppers last term in the Market Place. The College was invited by Derby Council to give the people of the town some live entertainment - so we did!

A. Coffey



Curriculum

Normandy Invasion



We visited Honfleur – a picturesque French fishing village



Spoils of the French Market – Bon Appetit!

In July twenty-six students of French spent a week in Normandy.

We were based at a centre for young people in Houlgate. Several educational visits took place during the week, including a trip to see the 900 year-old Bayeux Tapestry, and to several D-Day landing sites. We had the chance to try out our French at local markets and to buy ourselves something for lunch. The markets were really interesting and we had some delicious food. Another highlight was the visit to the Memorial de la Paix at Caen. This is a museum dedicated to the conflicts of the 20th century and it was a very interesting and a moving experience.

The centre at Houlgate was conveniently situated next to the beach and although the water was freezing we managed to take a dip in the Channel before we left. On the last night all the students took part in a talent contest and disco which topped off a very enjoyable visit.

We would definitely recommend taking part in future French visits and we've already booked our seats in the coach for the next one! Au revoir!

Sarah Guy, Year 9
Mandeep Dulku, Year 9
John Fyall, Year 9



Salut!

Quelle Horreur!



A taste of French culture

After I had procured 74 snails prepared and ready to heat from a tin, the opportunity to use them as a publicity stunt for the 'LFC Restaurant goes French!' was too strong to resist. We trialled this event earlier in the year essentially to allow Year 8 students to experience for real (well almost) the French food that they were learning about in the classroom, and to help them prepare for Trade Fair.

Students and staff, regardless of language expertise, enjoyed it so much plans were made on a grander scale. The French national day, Bastille Day or Le Quatorze Juillet, seemed more than appropriate. Mrs Coffey produced information for tutor bases to explain the historical background of this date in the French calendar.

A wide range of French Foods was on offer at breakfast and lunch when the restaurant staff excelled themselves in supporting this. The menu was designed by Sarah Guy and Adelle McPhee. There was also a quiz hosted by the Information Centre, who also provided a topical display. The quiz was won by Sonia Akbar, now in Year 9.

The snails were made the object of a charity dare in which students and staff challenged a member of College to consume a snail in its entirety. £64 was raised for The Brazilian Street Kids Charity, who had been visiting College earlier in the week. A special award went to Pradeep Chahal who ate 10, suffering no ill effects.

Look out for more International Restaurant Days coming up in the future. If any readers care to sponsor prizes or make donations for, initially, German, French or Spanish themes please contact John Cox at the College.

H. Kirk



A smile helps l'escargot go down? Perhaps not!



Bon appetit!

Curriculum

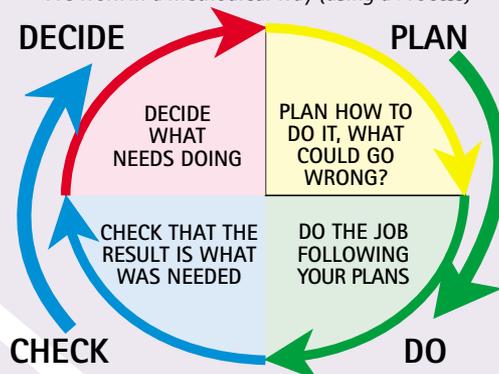
Year 7 Induction: Working with Rolls-Royce

This year once again we were privileged to have John Gentle, Suzanne Watson and Geeta Rattu from Rolls-Royce Training Branch return to College to work with our new Year 7 students. Over the course of the two days the students worked in teams to learn about how to deliver excellence; not as engineers but as college students.

"It's one of the first dates we fill in on our calendar. The staff and students of Landau Forte are a pleasure to work with," writes Miss Watson. "Achieving excellence in industry involves using the same process as it does in education - Decide, Plan, Do, Check following *The 5 P's*."

How do we give our customer an Excellent Product or Service?

We work in a methodical way (using a Process)



How do we give our customer an Excellent Product or Service?

*We use a check-list (*The 5 P's*)*

Product	- what you end up with
Process	- the right way of doing things (Decide, Plan, Do, Check)
Plant	- the things you need, ie. equipment
People	- what you've learned and the skills you have
Programme	- how big is the job and when do you need to finish it?

And remember, **COMMUNICATE** (and that includes listening)

The main task of the day involves following the rules of *The 5 P's* to make engine nose cones (out of paper, not titanium!) then looking at how what has been learned can link with college life.

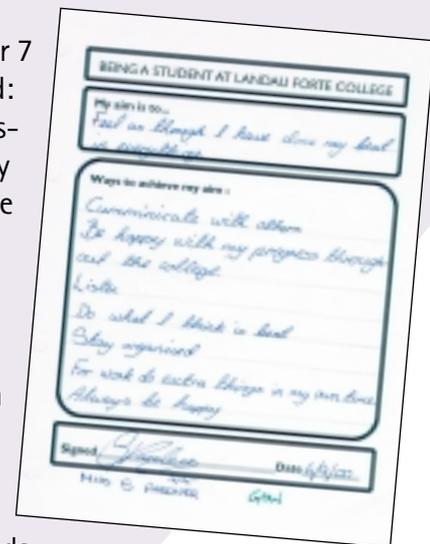
Esther Gunn, year 7 Forte said: "The Rolls-Royce day taught me a lot about working together in a team and I made lots of new friends

It really encouraged me to work hard and think positively about my future at Landau Forte."

Rolls-Royce have been part of the Year 7

induction programme now for nine years and we look forward to continuing this successful partnership in the future.

J. Holmes



Curriculum

Readathon 2000

Between 18 and 30 September this year, students and staff will again have the opportunity to raise money for Sargent Cancer Care for Children and the Roald Dahl Foundation by taking part in a READATHON. The two charities raise money to help children in Britain who suffer from cancer, Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia, epilepsy, blood disorders or head injury. Last year we raised £309.57.

READATHON encourages students and staff to be sponsored to read books! All participants must use the official sponsor card available from the Information Centre, on which there is space to list the books chosen to read. These can be borrowed from any library, friends or

family and sponsorship can be for each book read or a total amount.

We would like to collect the sponsorship money between 30 September and 3 November 2000 and this should be handed to a member of the Information Centre staff with the sponsor card in a sealed envelope marked READATHON. A receipt will be issued.

This is an opportunity for both reluctant and keen readers to get stuck into a book for a worthwhile cause and I'm sure you will find that it will be the start of a lifelong pleasure. Please give it a try.

C. Holme

Russian Club



For three weeks in June on Thursday afternoons after College, there was a Russian club. Initially aimed at pupils in Key Stage 3, the class attracted a majority presence of post-16 students! It was run by Joanne Harding and Steve Hogan from the University of Derby, who were carrying out some research in Languages classes in College as part of their studies.

The aim of the club was to teach anyone who was interested, a little bit of the Russian language. Despite the fact that we only had three hours we managed to learn quite a lot. Due to the nature of the language, we had to learn the alphabet as well as the words. We learnt a lot about the numbers, and at our request, we were given enough information to extend them

beyond the limitations of what we were taught. In this way, the teachers were very helpful. If we wanted to know something extra, they would tell us.

There was a wide range of ages among the people present, including some members of the tutorial staff, and most of us managed to keep up quite well. The teachers were very good at finding different activities, especially using the whiteboard to teach us. We also had visual aids, including a fur hat! This allowed us to learn a great deal in a short space of time.

Most of us turned up to the club out of interest, more than from an ambition to learn Russian, but I think that after our experience, a lot of us, including myself, would like to learn Russian in more depth. We are grateful to Mr Hogan and Ms Harding for sharing their knowledge of Russian with us.

Clive Martin, Year 13.

Curriculum

Get Bronzed!



On top of the world! Looking down Dovedale to Thorpe cloud: Philip Gordon and Anyanna Howell take a breather while Mark Hinds poles up behind

The sun was shining for thirty-four Year Ten students and six staff plus partners, when they embarked on a two day Duke of Edinburgh expedition on Saturday 9 September.

The hike across the Peak District, formed part of the group's preparation for their Bronze Award expedition - another fifteen mile trek will be undertaken in early October.

The organisers were pleased with how well the excursion went. "We did see some interesting navigation skills," admitted Ms Fawcett who accompanied the group, "but everyone enjoyed the trip - even those students obsessed with carrying huge bags full of heavy tins! The biggest challenge was assembling the huge frame tent we took along," she says, "...it took forty minutes with every

member of the group working on it - but it was a great team-building exercise."

"I was proud of my own group. The hike over Bunster Hill was particularly hard, especially considering the weight of the packs and the heat," commented Mr Thomas who supervised a group of students along with Mr Robson, Miss Corner, Mrs Smith and Mr Wilson, plus Rob and Jasper (the dog).

Participating students stayed overnight on campsites at Wetton and Alstonefield. "The hike was hard work but it was worth it in the end," said student Dean Else. "It should help us pass the Bronze award."

The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme attracted almost fifty students from the present Year 10. The scheme will begin again with the present Year 9 in January 2001.

James Cheyne, Year 13

Millennium Book of Prayers, Poems and Reflections

As part of our Millennium Celebrations students, staff and their families were given the opportunity to write their thoughts on the Millennium. These have now been printed and will be on sale shortly.

To order your copy please send £2.50 per book in an envelope

clearly marked with your name, amount enclosed, students' personal tutor or your phone number. Please mark it for the attention of Miss E.M. Keogh.

E. Keogh

Curriculum

A Level Mountain Expedition



'No, I said *left* at the footpath.'

As the sun shone brightly on the morning of Monday, July 3 2000, the day of reckoning had finally arrived. Months of preparation, excitement and anticipation had passed; camping had arrived.

A nice, relaxing four days lay ahead of us. The weather was

going to be sunny all week and sleepless nights, because of the midnight fun and feasts we were going to have, were the words on all of our lips. Or so we thought.

The group who were venturing forth this week consisted of myself, Scott Swarbrook, Tom McNulty, Simon Holt, Matthew Woodings, Oliver Ball and last but not least, the brave Laura Walsh. (How she could spend a whole week with us, I'll never know).

Everybody arrived at College; nobody lost yet and not a map or compass in sight! So far so good. Everybody was well-equipped, with a couple of Arsenal shirts on show as well. The minibus was quickly loaded and the journey to the Lake District began.

The journey went well, thanks to McNulty FM ensuring everybody was in good voice, and spirits were high. Eventually - after Miss Calcutt and Mr Robinson finally stopped singing - we arrived at the campsite. After a quick tour of the site, the two groups split up. The first group, the Ridgeback Bad Boys (myself, Tom McNulty and Scott Swarbrook) quickly got started on our short supplies of food whilst the other and more

astute group quickly got their tent up, the stove lit and then began cooking their food. Top marks team.

The lads then started up a game of football whilst Laura decided to stay in her tent and just watch - and laugh. Miss Calcutt and Mr Robinson aimed to construct Mr Holmes' dodgy mess tent and eventually

succeeded... after a helping hand from a nearby camper.

The first of many strenuous walks then began: a so-called short training walk... of over 10 miles. Mr Robinson obviously thought this was a piece of cake, leading the way enthusiastically. The group, slightly less eager and mumbling one or two negative words, followed.

Considering it was only a training walk, it certainly seemed to take a lot of time and muscle-power, with Laura struggling and wishing she was back home. The gentlemen that they are though, Simon and Oliver kindly offered to carry some of the contents of her rucksack for her on the remainder of the walk.

When we finally returned to the site and cramp had set in, everybody collapsed onto their sleeping bags with great sighs of relief. The Lake District then became Las Vegas with Mark, Tom and Scott settling down to some heavy gambling with huge stakes at risk - well, matches anyway. Night-time soon set in and when the teachers eventually thought everybody was asleep, they decided to retire to their sleeping bags themselves. Little did they know that the lads in the group had a secret mission up their sleeves, which would have made the SAS proud. As soon as the sound of snoring issued from the teachers' tents, we all met up and the midnight walk began (Laura had the opportunity to come also but made the wise choice of getting a good night's sleep). We kept on walking into the dark and dusky night, unsure of what was going to appear and how the heck we were going to get back to the campsite. Trusting our instincts though and our instincts only, we were able to find our way back successfully, making as minimal noise as possible.

The next day passed quickly: another training walk and some tuition regarding first aid, emergency procedures and other useful camping information. Fortunately, a trip to Keswick then took place so Mark,



'I've told you before Tom: *never* shave your legs while walking up a mountain!'



So *that's* why Laura can't fasten her shoe-laces...

Curriculum

A Level Mountain Expedition



We're sure there's a fancy dress party round here somewhere...

Scott and Tom could stock up on more food, well, junk food and snacks. We had already survived that day with only a box of Pringles and a packet of biscuits, albeit with a lot of laughs.

Another midnight expedition was planned for that night. However, as soon as everyone was tucked up cosily in their sleeping bags, plans were forgotten: everybody was fast asleep without any thoughts of waking up. Until 7:00 a.m. the next morning that is, when Mr Robinson kindly prevented us from sleeping in.

The next two days were assessment expedition days. Oliver Ball took charge of the navigation in one group with Simon, Matthew and Laura closely monitoring him and ensuring the team morale was high. I took charge of the other group with Scott and Tom cracking the bar room jokes but contributing also.



'No trust me Olly - your hair looks fine!'

Soon after though, another side of our team spirit was seen - probably never seen before: maturity, feelings and affection! And who was the lucky recipient? No, not a group of girls we came across while walking.. but a small, lost and injured little lamb, which had been left abandoned by a rock. Miss Calcutt and Mr Robinson tried desperately to get a signal

on their mobile phones before eventually, mountain rescue were contacted and the location of the lamb transmitted over the phone.

There was much relief on Thursday night after all the walking was over. Once again, another game of football took place, this time back on the original site at Gatesgarth Farm. The midges were fought off and a carefree game of football began, followed by a night meal in Keswick. The teachers, Simon and Laura went for the more mature approach and ate at a posh nearby pub whereas we other members opted for the local chippy where kebabs, cod, cheese and chips was the first proper meal of the whole week.

The week was an opportunity for us all to work together as teams and really try and find out how self-dependent we could be. Even though it was hard work we had a great time and the week was never without laughs. It was also a great send-off to the legendary Mr Robinson who, with Miss Calcutt provided some of the expedition's highlights. One day, we may return, but in the meantime I think we deserve a well-earned rest. A smashing effort. Well done group!

Mark Siviter, Year 13

Curriculum

Working in Belgium



L-R: Camilla, Susie, Alex, Amy, Nicola and Helen



Looks like a Quentin Tarantino set-up...

In January 2000 we were given an amazing chance: we got to spend two weeks in Belgium as part of our work placement programme. Seven of us went, in total, and it turned out to be a truly unforgettable experience.

The work placements were varied, ranging from working in a primary school, or an old people's home, to a large high-street bookshop in the centre of a large shopping complex. The work placements were a huge success. They helped us to improve our French, giving us more confidence in speaking the language as well as improving our survival skills in a foreign country.

The city of Belgium is beautiful. The many sights and sounds around the centre of Belgium included the Grand Place, which contains many awesome buildings with much history behind them. Equally as famous is the Mannequin Pis, which has become a worldwide tourist attraction. Also in Belgium, there is the charming city of Bruges. It takes an hour and a half by train to get there, but it's worth it. With wonderful restaurants and very gregarious people, who make you feel indeed welcome, it is definitely worth the visit.

But what did the students have to say?

"This was beneficial for the improvement of my French and the experience of working abroad."
Stephanie Lourd, social security office.

"It was a useful experience for me as much of what they were learning provided good revision of the basics of French grammar for me!"
Susannah Jackson, primary school.

"Speaking French every day helped to improve my vocabulary and make my spoken French more fluent."
Helen Rhodes, old people's home.

"The family were very welcoming...I would recommend everyone to do work experience abroad."
Amy Renou, primary school.

"The children were wonderful and so sweet! My listening skills have vastly improved and I now have a better command of the French language."
Nicola Kelly, primary school.

"I am so much more confident in speaking French. The experience was amazing."
Camilla McGhee, bookstore.

The worst part about it was coming back! If anyone ever has the chance of work abroad, please take it! It will be an experience, which lasts a lifetime.

Alex Bowen, Year 13, (completed his placement in a primary school.)

Sea, Sand but No Siesta!



The Sagrada Familia

On Saturday 1 July thirty-two students set off for five fun-filled days in Barcelona. Accompanying them were Miss Crocker, Mr Carey and Mrs Kirk. We arrived in Barcelona around lunchtime on Sunday 2 July brimming with excitement and curiosity. After checking into our hotel, we wasted little time before charging down the Ramblas (the main pedestrian shopping area). Having explored the town centre we rested on the beach and soaked in the midsummer sun. Those of us with enough energy left, raced towards the sea.

Nevertheless we were not in Spain to have five carefree days, oh no! We had travelled over hundreds of miles to do some serious business. Each of us tried hard to use the Spanish we had learnt in the confines of our classroom to the native speakers. In the beginning, this was a daunting task. However, during the length of my visit I did feel as

though my confidence in speaking Spanish improved tremendously and I know our enthusiasm and love for Spanish culture and lifestyle increased.

Some of the places we visited included the

Sagrada Familia, the unfinished cathedral and the roofs. Here we saw brilliant Spanish architecture and craftsmanship and increased our knowledge of Spanish history. We also went to Pueblo Español where we were taken around a small village that had some of the most important architecture in Spain. Here our tour guide explained in detail about the various buildings, why they were designed in their unique way and which part of Spain they belonged to. We also made our way to Montserrat to visit the monastery on the mountain; we saw the black Madonna and gained an understanding of Spain's religious culture. Finally we saw Gaudi's park designed colourfully with mosaic benches, serial objects and his ideal house.

Though our visit was only a short one, I felt as though it was educationally very beneficial. It allowed me to explore another culture, country and people. Although I only managed to see the tip of the iceberg, my visit convinced me that one day I will go back to Spain, but for now GCSEs beckon and my Spanish homework....

Raj Sandhu, Year 11

Curriculum

EXPO 2000, Germany



Amy and Bina grooving to Derby Band: Pala

EXPO 2000 is a year-long exhibition, where every country in the world is invited to attend and to create a stand displaying information in any format about the country's lifestyle, culture and how it has and is developing. These displays ranged

from four-storey multi-level pavilions to desert castles with bazaars and markets, all with water displays, 360° cinemas or other eye-catching attractions.



Debbie Hawkes: modelling

Each of the pavilions was different; the Dutch one for example, was built over four levels, each showing a different aspect of the Netherlands. The United Arab Emirates had created a large desert fortress, in which was a traditional bazaar and street market, as well as information about the country. China's displays featured the old traditional forms of Chinese art and medicine, as well as how China is moving into the 21st century with technology, whilst still retaining its traditional roots.

Our two A Level German classes, as well as students from A Level Geography and Advanced GNVQ Science, were asked by Derby City and Osnabrück City Councils

to take part in the Youth Culture Festival in Osnabrück. This was linked to the Osnabrück EXPO 2000 project, which has looked at the problems of soil contamination and how to deal with them. We joined groups from France, the Netherlands and Germany. The programme was very full and included a day's visit to EXPO 2000 in Hanover, visits to the soil projects in Osnabrück, a visit to an industrial museum and an archaeological site.

Interspersed between our research and tours regarding the soil project, were a diverse range of social and cultural activities, where we could meet students from Holland and France and listen to music from local Derby bands Pala and Silk.

It was a privilege to be the representatives of Derby and we have established new links with French and German schools.

Matt Harris, Year 13



Clowning around: Louise Ham's takes some tips

The Landau Forte College Link Experience

If you are a new parent reading this publication for the first time you may not be aware that Landau Forte College has an established 'Parent Link System'.

The 'Parent Directory Forms' you complete when your child first enters College in Year 7 or Year 12 form the basis of our initial contacts with you. Most offers of help are taken from this source of information. Those of you who have been contacted in previous years have volunteered their time and skills to support in many ways whilst your child has been in the College. This form has been updated and a copy for your use is enclosed with this edition of Newslink.

All departments can benefit from extra help with administrative tasks, display work and classroom support, including listening to students reading and help with visits. Some have been taken onto the staff as and when vacancies occur. This all makes Parent Link a valuable asset and supports our commitment to our partnership with parents and carers.

There is a now a new initiative in the making, which could, in effect, involve every single person reading this article but especially all parents and guardians.

Would you be prepared to share your knowledge and experience of the workplace with Landau Forte students? We hope, with your help, to give students an opportunity to talk to real-life nurses, engineers, bricklayers, retailers, solicitors, scientists, musicians etc. about their work experiences.

Alongside the individual Work Placement schemes we offer in Years 9 10 and 12, this could become a very valuable tool for preparing our students for the real world of work. Do please consider this opportunity to become involved and look out for more information, as it becomes available.

Lastly if you are looking for the chance to meet socially with other parents and staff there will be events organised by the College Community Action Group throughout the year. These usually involve staff and students and other outside community groups. Miss Elizabeth Keogh heads up this initiative.

Please keep supporting your child and the College in whatever way you can and enjoy being linked in to the 'Landau Forte Experience' - alongside your sons and daughters and the staff!

Please complete the enclosed form if you would like to be involved and/or contact Joyce Hewitt at the College on Extension 2104 for more information on any of the above.

J. Hewitt

Poetry Corner

Our new Year 7 students show their talent: entries for this year's poetry competition included the following:

The Aurora

Lighting the sky throughout the night,
The aurora shines so bright.
After sunset, in the poles,
A band of light slowly unfolds.

Colours conquer the black and white,
And the cold begins to bite.
But when appears dawn next day,
As the aurora fades away,
The morning sun does smite
The pitiful cold of the night,
And nothing is known of what happened
Earlier that day.

Ahmad Jagot

Time for Autumn

Golden brown, orange and amber,
Here there and everywhere, wet on the
ground
Blowing around and round up and down.
Beautiful autumn leaves cold and damp;
Sunshine and captive light,
Surrounding the winding trees,
Slowly glistening in the dry autumn day,
Hedgehogs swiftly move beneath the
golden oaks,
Snuggling up to the warm brown bark:
Sleeping for the months ahead
Until the Spring awakens us all again.

Holly Moore



Arts

An Evening of Drama



This took place on 20 July 2000 involving over one hundred students either as performers, technicians, box office or front-of-house assistants.

"A Fistful of Cactus"

Having rehearsed regularly since March, the Junior Drama Group performed a one-act play entitled "A Fistful of Cactus". Rehearsals were long and the cast had to show real commitment to the show and to each other. But at 7.00pm on the evening of the performance fifty members of Junior Drama were standing backstage ready to walk on. The cast tell the story of the evening's performance in their own words:



"Before the performance there was tension and butterflies all round... I had to take over a part a few days before the performance so I was especially nervous but it all went smoothly."

Steven Kew

"As the music started I knew I had to perform to the best of my ability. The lights went up and even though I'd been on stage before I still had butterflies in my stomach."

Bethany Dickson



"...when I went on stage the nervousness stopped and I really enjoyed myself."

Gina Stead

"I played the 'baddy', I had to be hard and angry. My part involved lots of freezing and shouting!"

Trying not to laugh was very hard because I was very nervous."

Claire Simpson (One-Eyed Joe)

After the performance the cast were united in their final verdicts:

"On the night there was an immense amount of energy which pulled everyone through."

Richard Higgins

"Overall, it was fun but hard work."

Jack Langley

"Overall I thought the play went very well - it was loud, energetic and great to be involved in."

Claire Simpson

"It was real good fun!"

Andrew Cooper



"The experience of being in 'A Fistful of Cactus' was brilliant. I think that everybody who performed in the show really enjoyed every bit of it. Even though every performer gave an excellent performance, the things that made the show so good were the people who were behind the scenes - the 'techies'. Thanks to the 'techies!'"

Katy Appleby.

Arts



"Any Old Iron"

"The Laundry Girls" by Bill Owen is based on real working lives in the early 20th Century and deals with the issues working teenagers faced, such as poverty, hunger, family, love and bringing up a child single-handed.

Rehearsals dealt with similar issues on a slightly less drastic note: long hours, essential teamwork, pressing deadlines, hours away from the chocolate machine and loved ones. It also involved issues such as who would look after siblings after 4.00pm so that the cast could stay at school and rehearse. A serious one-act play demands commitment and the Senior Drama Group showed that commitment. After a long day of SATs, or a gruelling day on work placement, they would turn up ready for rehearsal, (and then bed!). Costumes were found, irons were borrowed and ironing produced, and lines were learned.



Finally it was the night of the performance, summed up in the following words from some of the performers:

"I really enjoyed performing in "The Laundry Girls" as it was a really exciting piece of drama. We worked extremely hard during the weeks building up to the performance, and it was well worth the effort."

Raj Sandhu

"Every week we rehearsed long hours, and after a hard day's work at College I sometimes questioned whether it was all worth it. But once we performed and got

the response we deserved, I knew that all the work was worth it."

Holly Tabberer

"As the curtains rose I saw the hundreds of eyes focused on the stage and I could feel my stomach turning with nerves. As the curtain rose and I began to sing the first verse to the play's opening song my nerves had begun to fade and I began to enjoy performing. By the time the others began to come out of the opening tableau and the other singer had joined in I could feel the energy on the stage and I could tell that this was going to be the best performance ever!"

Maria McCabe

"The Laundry Girls" was the first performance by the Senior Drama Group and I look forward to producing many more with such a dedicated team of young people!

A team effort all round

A big thank you to everyone who supported the evening. The many and varied contributions helped to make the evening a success, especially Landau Forte Youth Dance, the "techies" and the GCSE Performing Arts students.

So what's next?

The Devised Work competition takes place on Tuesday 14 November at 7.00pm. Both drama groups and Landau Forte Youth Dance will be performing short newly devised pieces whilst the judging is taking place. We look forward to seeing you there!

A. Spencer; Junior and Senior Drama Group members.



Sports Report

Sports Presentations 1999/2000

Last year saw some incredible sporting achievements from students of all ages and abilities. Mr Whiteley rewarded all the dedicated sportsmen and women of Landau Forte in our prestigious end-of-year sports presentations. Congratulations to all those who received awards for either individual or team performances. Robbie Davy-Cripwell has become our first ever National Champion by winning the

Basketball, Cricket, Netball and Rounders. The Year 11 football team showed excellent spirit to win the city league and fought valiantly to become runner-ups in the city cup final. The U16 Netball Squad, who have reliably attended training and shown excellent commitment, are improving all the time and did themselves proud in their first ever Derby City League entry. Both teams are winners of the Team of the Year award.



Sports awards go to L-R:
Robbie Davy-Cripwell, Adam
Finlay and Sarah Guy

Junior Wheelchair Doubles Championships in Sheffield. Robbie is a true professional who has achieved his success by hard work and commitment and truly deserves the title of Sportsman of the Year. Sportswoman of the year was awarded to Rebecca Peake for her excellence in athletics.

We have continued to produce some very good team performances in Football,

Dedicated individuals have made positive contributions to their chosen sports. Most Valuable Player awards were presented to Tom Peberdy for Football, Daniel Redfern for Basketball, Sarah Guy for U14 Netball, Charlie Fletcher for U16 Netball, Adam Finlay for Cricket and Robbie Davy-Cripwell for Tennis. All the individuals have set themselves particularly high standards in their chosen sports and aim to be the best that they can possibly be. They should act as an inspiration to us all.

The Physical Education team are always delighted to recognise excellence in sporting activities. However, effort and improvement in sport are vital qualities, which are possibly more important. Sarah Minall has worked hard in netball and tennis and received the award for Most Improved Student in the PE curriculum.

Congratulations to all those who received awards for either individual or team performances. Let's hope we can build on our successes this year and continue to improve sporting standards at Landau Forte College.

Sports Report

What are the PE staff up to?

"Do as I say, not as I do." Happily this is not a phrase often used by staff at Landau Forte. In fact it is a considerable strength of the College that so many of the teaching staff are actively involved in their subject areas away from the college environment. The PE staff are of course no exception, each one achieving success in their own branch of sport.

Last year Mr Robinson led from the front continuing his squash success as club number one at Dragons Squash Club, not to mention his eternal quest to achieve the forward loop on his windsurfer. This year Mrs Holland continues her swimming career after a short summer break as she represents Derbyshire in county competitions.

Miss Calcutt has showed herself to be a high quality all round performer winning the Darley Parks Tennis Tournament and City League with her tennis partner Miss Harvey, who is also a PE teacher at Bemrose school. As the tennis season draws to a close Miss Calcutt will shift her attention to Netball where she represents Pennine Netball club. As county trials loom we expect big things from her.

Mr Unwin on the other hand is continuing his interest in minority sports this year. "Ultimate" is still gaining more media coverage every year and after a season of national ranking tournaments Mr Unwin's new team based in Leicester is ranked 5th in the country. He is looking forward to the National Championships at the end of September to see if they can improve their 5th place seeding. Fourth place will qualify the team for the European championships in Prague and next year the world championships to be held in Hawaii.

Not to be outdone our new staff members are currently on the transfer market for local sports clubs. Mr Maddock, an accomplished Rugby player will no doubt be joining a club very soon and Miss Smith will be looking to join a hockey club in the near future.

Let's hope the team continue their sporting success without the injury nightmare that you may remember blighted the department two years ago where only one member of staff was walking properly!

In Focus

Name: Rebecca Peake

Year: 13

Age: 17

Sport: Athletics

I began training five years ago when I was encouraged to take up the shot putt by my parents who are both actively involved in athletics. In 1996, after less than a year, I was ranked 8th in England in the shot and had also achieved National standards in discus and javelin. By 1998 I had won a gold medal in the English Schools Athletics Championship, however an injury ended my season prematurely. After 18 months out I returned to the sport. This year I have achieved a gold medal in the Derbyshire Championships, a silver in the North of England Under-20s, silver

in the English Schools' Under-19 and bronze in the AAA Championships. Recently I threw 19m 20cm, which ranks me 3rd in the UK and 2nd in England Under-20. My coach and I are currently preparing for a guest appearance at the Bath U20 International in September. Next year I hope to go to the European Under-20 Championships in Jamaica and after my A Levels I hope to study at Loughborough University, home to many international athletes.



Representing Derbyshire at English schools Athletics Championships 2000. I threw 12.23m to finish 2nd, just.

Rebecca joined the College this year from Belper School to study A level PE where her athletics background is standing her in good stead. An impressive career so far with International honours waiting in the wings. Well done Rebecca.



Representing the North of England in London against Wales, Scotland, the South, France and Ireland.

Sports Report

New Staff Profiles

Mr Maddock: PE Curriculum Leader

Mr Maddock has previously been teaching for seven years at a school in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Born in Neath, South Wales, Mr Maddock attended St Pauls & St Marys University in Cheltenham where he studied Physical Education and Humanities. In his previous school he was promoted to Assistant Head of PE and became Assistant Year Team Leader to the Sixth Form, it was here he introduced GCSE and A Level PE into the curriculum as well as establishing the Sports Leaders Awards. Successes were also achieved in team sports including football, basketball and cricket winning District, County and Regional competitions.

Mr Maddock's interests include participating and spectating in as many sports as possible, particularly Rugby and Cricket in both of which he represented his country Wales - many

years ago though!! He also enjoys going to the cinema, eating out and socialising, and is currently studying for a Diploma in Sports Psychology. Mr Maddock is looking forward to the challenges presented at Landau Forte College and is determined to raise the profile of Physical Education for both the students and the college itself.

Miss Smith: PE Tutor

This is my first position after spending three superb years at Birmingham University gaining a degree in Sport and Exercise Science, and then an extra year at Brighton University for my teaching certificate. Three days before starting at the College I arrived back from America having spent 9 weeks there working at a Summer Camp, teaching children any land sport imaginable, from Archery down to Volleyball. For the near future, I hope to join a new hockey club soon.

County Trials

The following students have been nominated for Derbyshire County football trials:

- U15s Brett Adul, Colin Jones, Paul Zolkewiez;
- U14s Patrick Sheppard, Nathan Croot, Greg Babbs, Andrew Atterson, Andrew Barratt;
- U14s Kylie Hood has been selected to represent Derbyshire County Schools in Football: congratulations!

The following students have been nominated for Derbyshire County Rugby trials:

- U15s Richard Mills, Nick Crawford;
- U14s Charlie Woodward, Amy Spencer, Hannah Litchener;
- U13s Michael Howson, Asa Farrar.

S. Calcutt, A. Holland, N. Maddock, K. Smith, D. Unwin.

Free as a Bird

On a warm August night in Derby I was invited to the world premiere of a Danish-made film. The film, "Free as a Bird" is the third in the trilogy "Children of War" directed by Lizzi Weischenfeldt. It concentrates on the life of Ivana Plesa, a sixteen year-old former student at Landau Forte College.

This moving and beautifully crafted film deals with Ivana's experience of war-torn Bosnia, the loss of most of her close family, her time spent in a Croatian refugee camp, her arrival in London and eventually her life in Derby with her very supportive foster family.

The previous two films in the trilogy have been shown to acclaim throughout the world; Ivana's early life was featured in the first film.

Much of the film is shot in Derby and also involves the exploits of two of her college friends, Chanel Jones and

Dionne Howell. They are seen in College, shopping in the city, visiting Matlock Bath and "partying" in the evening.

Ivana is stoical throughout and portrays a young person who has a positive outlook on the future despite all the horror she has suffered including a serious road accident (in Derby) two years ago.

The film deserves international acclaim and distribution and hopefully will be screened later this year on Channel Four television. It is an inspiring tribute to the human spirit and to all refugees traumatised by war, oppression and persecution.

B. Thomas

PS: Why was I invited? - well I'm the ICT teacher whose lesson is briefly featured in the film!



Students displaying their work and certificates

Year 9 French Certificate Course

During Terms 4 and 5 of last year, Mrs Smith's Year 9 French group were given the chance to undertake a new certificate course.

There were six areas to the certificate and these were:

- Weather
- Family
- Food
- Holidays
- Town
- At the Doctor's

To prove that we were able to use French in these areas we could use PowerPoint presentations, drama, display work or even a treasure hunt in French around the College! There were three levels of achievement and these were Pass, Merit and Distinction.

It was an enjoyable two terms due to the fact that the group were given the chance to work at their own speed and show what ability we have.

Beth Rogers, Year 10

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Maths Challenge answer
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