

Ofsted Report Recognises College Success!

The Ofsted Report published last November, following the inspection in September 2001, gave an impartial and very clear message confirming the performance of the College. The report described the College as: "a very good school with many outstanding features."

The inspection team totalled 16 under the leadership of the Registered Inspector, Mr George Knights. The team spent a week in the College observing, interviewing and meeting students, staff and Governors. Previously they had met with parents, received responses to questionnaires from parents and students, and scrutinised college documentation and performance information.

The strengths of the College are summarised in the following key points (taken from the Ofsted Report):

- Visionary leadership and strong management together generate a shared commitment to continuous improvement within the College. Students are helped to improve their achievements year on year.
- The College provides a rich and imaginative range of learning opportunities with an effective and appropriate emphasis on science and technology.
- Consistently good teaching encourages students to become actively involved in their learning.
- Each student is very well known as an individual, ensuring that they are able to make the best use of all that the College offers.



Students at work

- Excellent relationships and strong motivation enable students to adopt very positive attitudes to all aspects of college life. The contribution and aspiration of each member of the college community is valued. The College fully lives out its aims.

Undoubtedly, the final report was a celebration of the success of the College and praised our progress since the previous inspection in 1996. Everyone associated can be justly proud of the achievements. Whilst the week is a snapshot of our work, without the years of hard work and dedication the College could not have gained such a report. (A summary or full report is available on application to the College or on the web site: www.landau-forte.org.uk.)

S Whiteley

Victoria Harrison

In the last edition of Newlink Victoria Harrison was omitted in error from a list of high achieving GCSE students. I hope Victoria will accept our apology and our congratulations on her excellent GCSE results which included 6 A*, 4 A and 1 B grades. Well done!

Principal's Message



Following a busy start to the academic year we are rapidly moving towards the examination periods. As always there have been many moments of success and achievements during the year and I hope you will enjoy reading further about those included in this the Spring 2002 Edition of Newlink.

We have had three changes to our permanent teaching staff. We were fortunate to recruit, at short notice, Miss Shelley Tokelov (who had recently entered the UK from Australia) on a permanent contract to replace Miss Kelly Briddon in our English team. Kelly decided that teaching was not a career she wished to pursue and left us to rejoin the commercial world. Mr Ron Maslin (ICT), who had been at the College for just over five years, similarly decided that he would return to the ICT adult training sector and Mr Malcolm Wilson, Curriculum Leader, achieved his ambition of gaining an appointment teaching Traveller Children. We wish them all every success in their chosen pathway.

I would like to warmly welcome Ms Alison Taylor who has replaced Mr Maslin in the ICT team. We are currently seeking a permanent replacement for Mr Wilson as Curriculum Leader for Art and Design. In the meantime temporary members of Art staff are teaching his classes.

Stephen Whiteley
Principal

Current Vacancies

We are currently making appointments to the following subjects:

Art and Design
permanent appointment from
April or August 2002

History
(Maternity Cover) temporary appointment
from April 2002

Physics
permanent appointment from August 2002

English
permanent appointment from August 2002

Physical Education
permanent appointment from August 2002

Anyone interested in the above posts can obtain further details by telephoning Olga Naisbitt, General Administration Assistant, at the College.



Hoping for Suite Success

The Principal and myself were recently seen in the Derby Evening Telegraph promoting the College's new conference facilities.

No one at the College can fail to have noticed the building works that were carried out in the summer of 2001. For a cost of £575,000, we have gained an excellent new Information Centre, extended Restaurant and a new Conference Suite.

But this is not the end of it! We are always looking for ways to improve facilities, whether it is in more and improved technology, or in better classroom or sports equipment.

Such improvements obviously come at a cost and it is hoped that, by the letting of the Conference facilities to outside users during quiet periods, and especially in the evenings and at weekends, we can help fund improvements.

The next stage of the Building Programme will be the



The impressive new Conference Suite

opening of the College Shop, situated next to the bar area. This will shortly be fitted out by specialist shopfitters. It will then be open to students for the sale of text and fiction books, newspapers, stationary, computer supplies and related goods. I hope all students will use the shop. Any profits raised will be reinvested back into the College.

J Cox

Information Technology!



The end result:
the new Information Centre

The new Information Centre has been open for one full term but the planning and hard work started long, long ago!

Having spent months watching the building work, I had found it difficult to believe a real room could appear from that chaos of concrete, metal and mess and so the first time they let me in,

complete with hard hat, I was truly impressed. Things seemed to move very fast from then and walls were painted, electronics completed, carpets laid and the security system reinstalled. All the new furniture was timed to appear the week the builders handed over the completed room and we were in!

Mrs Carr and I rebuilt all the old and extra shelves, whilst the suppliers constructed the new tables and counter. Contractors wired in data cables, telephone lines and Mr Charles produced and connected 35 new computers. The big job then was to move all the resources into the new centre. Boxes were unpacked, all the books were cleaned and returned to the shelves, and the new storeroom was filled to the top with extra resources for processing. Every detail, down to the clock on the wall, the plant in the corner,

the computer booking boards and the bins on the floor, was in place for the first day of term.

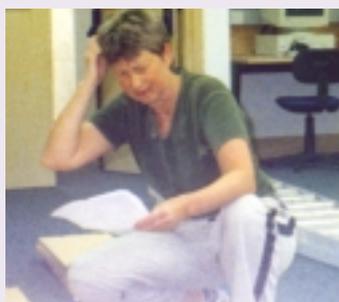
It took three weeks of hard work by the IC staff, Mr Charles and, of course, the site staff, but we did it! The first student entered at 7.45am on the first day of the new term and was quickly followed by several hundred more curious and keen students.

Since then we haven't suffered from a lack of customers! Between 7.45am and 8.30 we usually have approx. 250 students through the gate and an average total for any day is 1,100. We now have seating for a total of 96 students, consisting of 28 general use computers, 44 tables spaces, and a post-16 quiet study area consisting of 23 study carrels, 4 computers and 4 extra table spaces.

New resources include a large television and video, extra audiocassettes and a printer. The new facilities are complemented by Careers Adviser, Mrs Hewitt, and Information Centre Assistant, Mr Holme.

Anyone collecting students at the end of the school day is welcome to come up with them to have a look around.

C Holme



Mrs Holme wondering if the job will EVER be finished

OCR Recognising Achievement Award



Richard receives his award from Krishnan Guru-Murthy

It was a crisp cold November morning and we were waiting on the platform of Derby Station for the 7.00am train to London, along with our son, Richard, and Mrs Pioli. It was to be the highlight of an exciting week during which Richard and Mrs Pioli had enjoyed a touch of celebrity status with an interview on BBC Radio Derby and a feature in the Derby Evening Telegraph.

The reason for the media attention was that Mrs Pioli had nominated Richard for an award in the GCSE category of the OCR Recognising Achievement Awards and Richard had won one of the awards given to people throughout the country. We were off to attend the award ceremony to celebrate Richard's success, awarded for his bravery and commitment to continue his education despite the difficulties he had overcome in the treatment of his brain tumour.



Richard and his parents at the OCR Recognising Achievement Awards

The train made good time and we travelled across London in a taxi taking in the sights, such as Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace, before we arrived at Great George Street, just a short distance from Westminster Abbey and the

Houses of Parliament. There was time for a quick photo of us all with Big Ben in the background. This part of London always feels so special with all the history and power of the splendid buildings.

After a welcome drink, the award ceremony began in the lecture theatre. There were entertaining speeches from the guest speaker, Krishnan Guru-Murthy, the Channel 4 news reader and presenter, who had some tales of his own school days, and also from Ivan Lewis

MP, the first ever minister for young people.

Richard's award was one of the first of the 22 to be presented. The speaker made a short speech explaining that Richard had overcome illness to obtain his GCSEs, then Richard, without any apparent nerves, stepped onto the stage to accept his certificate from Krishnan and have his photograph taken. There was much applause and we felt extremely proud knowing just what our brave young son had gone through to be standing on that stage.

It was very moving as each of the award winners came forward to accept their certificates for their own personal achievements. There were winners of all ages and abilities, each one of whom had their own special reason for winning an award.

Each winner was also presented with a beautiful Dartington Crystal paperweight and Richard's will take pride of place at home. With the ceremony over, we were invited to join in a delicious lunch and the chance for yet more photographs.

As we stepped outside, the sun was still shining so we took a short walk past the Houses of Parliament and over the river Thames to the London Eye, where we bought tickets to ride. With excitement, we boarded our glass capsule and slowly ascended into the capital's sky.

It was then time to head back to Derby, but we all felt proud to have celebrated in Richard's achievement and grateful to all those who had made it possible. We all took back memories of a great day out which I'm sure we shall cherish for years to come.

Mr and Mrs Wilton

Curriculum

Engineering Education Scheme



Virtual product design, by the team

Cast your minds back to the last week of term 2. Most of you, I bet, were winding down for Christmas, dreaming of two weeks holiday bliss and the delights to be unwrapped on the 25th of the month. Not the case for four year twelves, David Allcock,

Rachael Allen, Jane Hamilton and Stephen Marsh were hard at work in the workshops and IT suites of Loughborough University. They were taking part in the Engineering Education Scheme's three day residential and getting a taste of Uni life at one of the UK's finest institutions.

"Why were they there?" I hear you cry. They were selected in September to represent Landau Forte College in a national scheme, which encourages young people to consider Engineering as career. Since September they have been working with local company, AEA Rail Technology, who have a large

responsibility in the rail network in the UK. The four students have had to design a piece of apparatus that would measure and electronically record wear, misalignment and deformation of railway tracks. Not a very exciting project, you might think, but these students have the potential to save the rail industry millions of pounds if their design is successful. Not bad for a bunch of teenagers that go to your College.

At the residential at Loughborough University they set about constructing a prototype from their designs with the help of Clive Hannaford and Chris Hoskin, from AEA Rail Technology, and myself. David, the deep, but "very methodical thinker", Rachel, the "lets get stuck in and get it made girl", Jane, the "skilled machining perfectionist", and Stephen the "clear thinking practical problem solver", made the ultimate engineering team.

The days were long and hard. Starting at 7:30a.m. and finishing at 8:00p.m. began to take its toll on the "Fab Four" by the end of the residential. Matters were not helped by having to walk a mile and a half across campus to the halls of residence for a good night's sleep. Despite their tiredness, spirits and motivation were high and the prototype was completed in plenty of time to prepare for their final-day presentation.

A very rewarding experience for all concerned. Now the students must develop the product and produce a written report for AEA Rail Technology. You never know, in years to come you may well be able to say that you went to college with the most famous engineer since Sir Frank Whittle.

C Doody



The team: left to right, Jane Hamilton, Stephen Marsh, Rachael Allen, Chris Hoskin, Clive Hannaford, Mr Doody, David Allcock

Curriculum

Numbers Day



Why have a Numbers Day on 6th November for the number seven? The answer: it was Senior Maths Challenge Day. Well done to those Year 11, 12 and 13 students who participated and especially those 17 students who attained a certificate!

We focussed our study for the day, within College, around the number seven. We did lots of games with all year groups in mathematics: seven timetable speed games,



Hannah Lewis hard at work at Bingo!

magic squares with factors and multiples of seven, and using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to find all the numbers between 1 and 20 with seven sevens!

What did the students do in other areas? In PE, they played seven-a-side with boys' rugby, warmed the students up with seven

stretches, and tried to score a basket in seven seconds; in Year 11 GCSE Business, students looked at the seven channels of distribution; in RE, they discussed the seven days of the creation story in Christianity; in Modern Languages, they had a competition for



Students enjoy the Restaurant Quiz

students who could find out the names for the seven days of the week in many different languages; in Science, they focused on 7 protons and 7 neutrons in the nucleus and 7 electrons in orbit around the nucleus.

We all had a fun time at tutor time and had a game of Bingo, and Laura Abbot won 77p in Mr Knibb's tutor base! The restaurant quiz was a success, with questions posed, such as: What are the Seven Wonders of the World?

Thanks to everyone for participating ...I wonder what will be next?

R Pioli

Memories of the Day

I arrived at school in October,
When I was stuck by a tingly feeling.
I looked all around, up and down
And saw a banner on the ceiling.

I took a step back and realised,
"This day will be like heaven!"
So off I went to my locker,
For today we were to learn about 7.

Numbers Day had finally arrived,
The first one for me ever.
I felt as if I flew to Maths,
As if I was light as a feather.

At breakfast time I went straight down,
And saw a yellow sheet.
I walked to the desk and on it saw
Questions which were incomplete.

The questions were so challenging,
I could never get all of them right.
The questions were all about number 7,
Like, "Name the 7 dwarves in Snow White."

Daniel Notisce, Year 7

Numbers Day, come again,
Number 7 is on everyone's brain.
This number is quite unique,
To find out more you will have to seek

All over the college walls,
ML corridor and the malls,
For there are prizes to be had,
If you do the quiz and aren't too bad.

Everybody can take part,
So hurry up and let us start.
This is a day in mathematics heaven,
So let's all have fun with number 7.

Hannah Lewis, Year 7

Curriculum

Getting to Know You...

Several months ago, Year 8 students from Kirk Hallam School and Landau Forte College exchanged e-mails, sharing information about themselves, in the form of a questionnaire. This data was converted into presentations by students from each school, shown by the use of tables, charts and graphs.

In this College, a winning group was chosen from each class, narrowing the field down to six finalists. These groups then presented their data to Mrs Pioli, Director of Studies for Mathematics, who chose three groups who were to visit Kirk Hallam School in order to present their findings.

On Friday 14 December, we were collected by the Kirk Hallam minibus, and given drinks and cakes on our arrival. After meeting two students, who explained what life was like at

Kirk Hallam, we were taken to our first class to show them our presentations.

It was nerve-wracking at first, but we managed not to make any mistakes. We must have been good, even though we put the OHT upside down, because they asked us to present again, in front of another class! After that, we had a tour of the school and observed what lessons were like, before being driven back to College by the minibus.

As we returned, we saw the Kirk Hallam students leaving, after they had shown their presentations to our Year 8 students, just as we had done there.

A great deal of hard work was put into creating these presentations, but we enjoyed the visit and would like to take part in a similar visit again.

Gemma Brady and Esther Gunn, Year 8



Kirk Hallam students welcomed at Landau Forte

Junior Maths Challenge

Which is the largest of these fractions?

A: $\frac{7}{15}$ B: $\frac{3}{7}$

C: $\frac{11}{23}$ D: $\frac{4}{9}$

E: $\frac{6}{11}$

Curriculum

The Murder o



Studying fingerprints of possible suspects...

Room where Miss Pearson read out what information there was concerning the final days of Becky Boyle's life. Armed with a detective's notebook, students spent the rest of the day in the Science labs unravelling the mysteries hidden within the clues.

It was a Tuesday night, and Becky was out at a school reunion party. The hall was decorated, the music was playing and there was plenty of food for everyone. All her old school friends were there. Becky had made plenty of enemies during her time at school: she had got so many of them into trouble at school, and done horrible things to them. But surely this was all in the past...

...or was it? Year 7 investigate.

D Bloomfield

She was not a particularly nice girl – but did she deserve this? Found lying on the floor of College, Becky Boyle's corpse was as cold as stone. A case of murder was on our hands. The police were in and had gathered the clues: fingerprints, possible weapons, even a suspect letter, but it would take some serious brain power to make sense of them, and solve this horrible crime.

Fortunately, Year 7 students had completed the "Would You Drink It" module, which taught them scientific skills which would prove useful in solving this crime. At short notice they were called into the Conference



Ready to do some detecting!

All in a Day's Work...

"We searched Becky's bag and found a note saying, 'I'll get you back for this, Becky Boyle'. We used chromatography to study the ink used, and compared this to pens found in her friends pockets. We also studied footprints on the ground outside the College.

All the people at the party seemed to bring something: a bottle of wine, sausage rolls. We knew that Becky Boyle was allergic to sausage rolls. So we studied the contents of her stomach and used iodine to test for any sausage roll traces. We found none.

We then found all sorts of items that could have been potential weapons that the party members had brought with them. We studied clothing fibres under the microscope found in Becky's hand, and matched them to the clothes worn by her friends.

Summary of articles from 7L1

So, Whodunnit?

"Local police have asked Year 7 students to utilise their science skills to help them solve this brutal murder."

Emily Wakeham

"She had one earring pulled off and half a biscuit in her hand...The case is being closely investigated..."

Lakvinder Dhamrait

Curriculum

f Becky Boyle

"Mr Sharrock was making his rounds at 10.21pm. He found the poor girl..."
Usmaan Hussain

"Mr Sharrock said, 'We saw somebody walking through the doors, but couldn't tell if it was male or female, so we went to have a closer look and we found Becky slumped on the floor outside the bar. We phoned the police as soon as possible...'"
Lauren Kirkland

"The Year 7s...came up with five different suspects: Pamela Anderson, Bianca Willis, Christopher Evans, Phillip Scofield and Mark Owen..."
Robert Fogg

"Weapons that could have been used are: an empty bottle, a plate or a knife."
Cassie White

"Courtney suggests that she was killed with a blow to the head from an empty wine bottle."
Shaun Hendrickson

A Career in Forensics, Anyone?

"I enjoyed inspecting two fibres because we used microscopes."
Mitchell Coventry

"It was good to learn about all different experiments."
Jodie Rogers



Testing Becky's stomach contents for starch



Chromatography – looking at the murder note

The six investigation Year 7 were trained in:

- Tread Lightly
- Fibre Fever
- Positive Prints
- Fatal Food
- The Camera Never Lies

Curriculum

Going Native

Each year, the work of Modern Foreign Languages is supported by native speakers of the languages being studied in the curriculum. Their assistance is vital in improving the accents of our students, and in sharing with them the cultural nuances that make Europe such a vibrant and varied community.

Here, we gain an insight into the lives of two current assistants and learn why they were motivated to gain experience, here at Landau Forte College.

Thomas Urlbauer

Hello, my name is Thomas Urlbauer. I am currently working as the German Assistant at Landau Forte College. Derby is a long way from my hometown. I was born in a small town in Bavaria, Germany, close to the Austrian border. I am studying German and English at Regensburg University because I want to become a teacher. So far my experiences at Landau Forte haven't put me off!



Thomas Urlbauer

The work at Landau Forte College is part of my studies – I volunteered for it! I support the students with their speaking tasks and am also studying an English course at the University of Derby. I will return to Germany in June where I will take up my studies again – only one more year to go!

When I am not studying, I like swimming, jogging, working out and skiing. The mountains near my hometown are great for winter sports and I have really missed being on the slopes these last few weeks. The summer in Bavaria is good, too - one thing I particularly like are the "Biergarten" where you can sit in the open and have a nice cold beer or two on a hot day.

Thomas Urlbauer

Raquel Galarza Ruiz

My name is Raquel Galarza Ruiz. I will be spending this year at Landau Forte College. Many of you may know me already. I am the Spanish Assistant and I arrived in Derby on the first of October. This is a new experience for me, so far it has been very enjoyable for a variety of different reasons. First of all, I enjoy being with the students and realising how interested they are in Spanish. Furthermore, sharing my time with teachers so committed to their work makes me realise why I chose this job. I can see that it is not an easy one, but I think it is a job that could make me happy.



Raquel Galarza Ruiz

When I started my degree, the only thing that was clear in my mind was that I loved languages. I was also aware of the wide range of opportunities that a languages degree provides and how it helps when learning how to communicate with different people. Now that I have a Bachelor's degree my main objective is to obtain experience in teaching my own language and develop my skills further.

Derby is the place where my future is and although sometimes I miss my country, Spain, and my sunny city, Murcia, I know I am very lucky because living and learning in England was something that I always wanted to do. I will be here until May but, who knows, I may decide to stay longer and perhaps become a Spanish teacher, or maybe I will return to Spain and become an English teacher. What is great is that both possibilities exist, and both of them interest me.

Raquel Galarza Ruiz



Miss Fagan at the Goethe Institute

Vorsprung durch Technik

I am currently involved with a very exciting project at The Goethe Institute in London. In order to promote the use of ICT in language learning, the project is creating a CD-ROM for use in schools across the UK. It is hoped the CD will use a range of cutting edge media to include interactive presentations, along with Internet-based and multimedia exercises.

J Fagan

World of Work



Advisor, Emma Smith

A WOW OF A TIME WAS HAD BY ALL Yr 10's IN 'INC'

This year Landau Forte was approached by World of Work Co-ordinator, Nick Clarke, to become part of a pilot scheme offering Year 10 students the opportunity to participate in a 'Young Enterprise' venture normally undertaken by post-16 students. Eleven students were asked to be involved and Zinzi Webb, writing on behalf of the group, tells us what it has meant to those chosen to be part of this 'curriculum enhancing' venture.

J Hewitt



Hard at work...

I was asked to take part in a new scheme, along with Hayley Lakstigala, Danielle Nowacki, Andrew Stanton, Matthew Smith, Daniel Body, Adam Johnson, Jack Langley, Faye Parker, Laura Stevenson and James Watters. We meet once a week, mostly in Tutor Time, and have been out on several visits. We have been given individual mentors from outside companies and we have now formed our own company called INC. We intend to manufacture wooden picture frames. We all have certain roles, such as Designer, Advertiser and Managing Director.



The World of Work team

To help us be effective, Emma Smith, from Bowmer and Kirkland, comes in once a week. Emma thought that we should experience a day in a real business

environment, so we all went to Bowmer and Kirkland. It was a great experience because we discovered what we would be facing if and when we were to work in the real world of business or industry.

We all have to work as a team and I know that, because some people don't get along with others, this has been a challenge for us. But I think that it has been worthwhile, as when we go out into the real business world, we will be working with people we don't know, and we will have to get along with them all.

I feel as the weeks have gone by the team have grown stronger. The team and myself have also found a lot of the tasks we have been doing have been challenging. In our company we have to make prototypes and ask people's views so we know what will attract the customer's eye. This is to enable us to expand our business. Because we have to do the business on our own, we are not allowed any funding or materials from College. We have had to get a loan of £73 from the bank and put in shares so we can make our business more successful. We now have money to buy materials from suppliers and other things we might need.

Many thanks to Mr Richardson, Ms Fawcett, Emma Smith and Dave Upton, from Rolls Royce. Without all of these people we know that the team and the company wouldn't have succeeded very well.

On behalf of all the team I can definitely say that this has been a great experience and is truly something worth having a go at.

Zinzi Webb, Year 10, and the team

Curriculum

Young Enterprise



One of the team hard at work

'Morpheus' is just one of the Young Enterprise teams currently in operation at the College. Here, they seize the opportunity to promote their work and reflect on the opportunities the scheme has offered.
J Grant

Young Enterprise is an organisation, which allows post-16 students to set up their own company. With the help of advisors and Business teachers, the company must elect their own Managing Director and other leading directors. The company then agrees on a name and a product to make and sell. Young Enterprise is an excellent way for young people to understand the concepts of business management. It gives students an opportunity to gain confidence and learn the importance of teamwork. Young Enterprise also gives students the chance to have their voice heard. Landau Forte College regularly participates in the scheme.

Autumn 2001 saw the awakening of an elite Young Enterprise team, named after the God of Dreams, 'Morpheus'. The company, which is run by a dedicated Managing Director, and backed by a team of zealous, diligent young

professionals, specialises in the manufacture and trade of decorative cushions. Each cushion is hand-crafted to suit the customer's own personal taste. They are available in a variety of sizes, colours and designs.

The Christmas range of seasonal cushions was a huge success amongst the College this year, selling over forty cushions to students and teachers. Morpheus' latest major project is their specialised Valentine's Day range of decorative cushions, a g a i n , varying in shape, size and colour. Morpheus will be selling their cushions to the public on 9 March, 2002 at the Market Square, in Derby City Centre. Alternatively, you can order your cushions from their catalogue or e-mail us at: morpheus_je@hotmail.com.



Just one of Morpheus' wide range of cushions

The Morpheus team

The members of Morpheus are:

Asmaa Ahmad
Sana Asif
Minna Basuta
Asmah Khalid
Sunita Dhillon
Samantha Vasey
Ashleigh Van Tonder
Abid Sabir
Janaid Iqbal
Adnan Mehrban
Stephen Marsh
Laura Moore
Vicky Harrison
Amanjit Fagura
Raza Ali
Raffia Nadeem

The advisors are

Steve Collins
Suki
Mrs Grogan



The Morpheus team

Curriculum

Children in Need



The Student Council get into the spirit of the occasion

On October 16th Landau Forte joined with the rest of the country to raise money for Children In Need. The day began with members of the student council arriving in fancy dress to collect

the dues for attending College in non-uniform. The Student Council Executive and other willing, Post-16 volunteers donned fancy dress and braved the ridicule of the general public and the cold, in Derby town centre, to carry out a very successful street collection. They raised over £800 in less than two hours. Some of the boys felt that the girls used their feminine charms to an unfair advantage, but if it keeps the money rolling in, good on them, I say.

Back at College, preparations were underway to transform our usual intensive academic environment into an orgy of fun and frivolity. There were numerous opportunities for students to make themselves and their peers physically sick, with a plethora of food and drink served in either the elegant surroundings of the Culture Café, or the less salubrious ambience of drinking straight from a frisbee through a straw. For those who wished to challenge themselves in a more active way, a host of sporting activities were provided: football tournaments, goal scoring, basket shooting and, of course, the ever popular Splat the Tutor. Indeed, there were some that doubted that Mr Coffey would ever be released from the stocks.

Not content with the carnival of tutor base activities, the students also put in many hours of rehearsal to produce another outstanding showcase of talent in the show. As ever, both shows were played out in front of an appreciative, full capacity audience.

Simon Smith et al went on, at a later date, to perform in their own concert and donated the proceeds to Children In Need.

Other students and staff subjected themselves to physical pain and torture to raise more money for this worthy cause. We had leg waxing for the boys and sponsored silence for Miss Spencer; which experience of the two was more traumatic may never be known.

Not content with keeping all this to themselves, the Student Council contacted local radio, TV and newspapers. Derby Evening Telegraph arrived to see the first of the money collection, the TV crew filmed Splat the Tutor and, in the evening, a group of students went to Radio Derby to do a live-on-air interview about the day's events.



Giant cakes and tinsel – a more pleasant way to fundraise!

In total, Landau Forte College raised the magnificent total of £3735. A fantastic achievement, so many congratulations to all of you who made it possible, especially the sterling efforts of the Student Council who worked tremendously hard to ensure that the day ran as smoothly as possible.

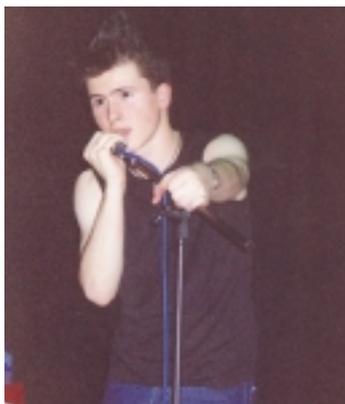
D Fawcett



Leg waxing, all in the name of charity!

Arts

Children in Need Concert



Greg Jackson

On the 27th of November, my band 39 Cents played our first live show. This is how it happened...

Before I started planning the event I had to get permission from Mr Whiteley, and find four willing teachers who would give up their Thursday night to supervise. Mr Whiteley liked the idea and agreed, and Mr Rolley-Parnell agreed to give us the technical support needed for such an event.

We made posters and sold tickets. The ticket sales started off slowly but picked up due to Paul Sharpes fantastic selling techniques of harassing people into buying tickets (thanks Paul!).

First up was Simon Smith and friends. This included myself, Sarah and Alex C. We played a mixture of covers and Simon's own material, and got the evening off to a good start.

39 Cents walked on to loud applause. Lyndon Baker stood up on his stage and waved his hands frantically in the air. We began with a particularly heavy song called, " Be quiet and Drive" by the Deftones. But after a few seconds we could tell something was wrong. Paul had forgotten to de-tune his guitar – oh, how we laughed. Also in this song Lyndon lost a drumstick. I will never forget the shocked look on his face – luckily, he grabbed a nearby

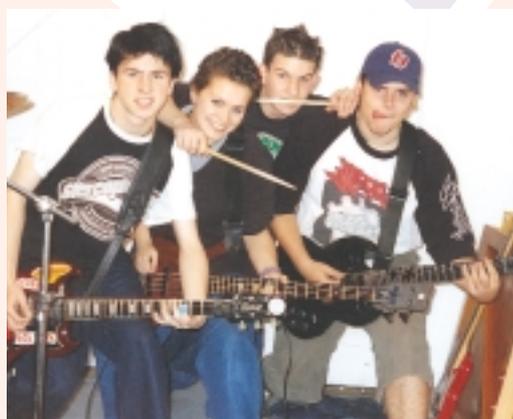
stick and carried on, before his bass pedal flew off. But apart from that, his drumming was flawless. Our four-stringer, Amy Blackwell, was strikingly confident, and, apart from my voice slowly disintegrating, I sang and played well throughout.

The band would like to thank Mr Rolley Parnell and his techies because without them the show would not have been possible. Our thanks also go to Mr Unwin, Mrs Holland, Mrs Parish, Mr Carey and Mr Whiteley for their tremendous support.

Greg Jackson, Year 12



Simon Smith



39 Cents are: Greg Jackson, Amy Blackwell, Lyndon Baker and Paul Sharpe



Bima receives his award from George's parents

In Memoriam

The George Roberts Award is the award given out for literary excellence, which is presented in memory of George Roberts, a former student.

Each year it is presented to an individual for outstanding achievement in literature. Traditionally it is given out at the end of the school year, in summer, but, due to the theatre being out of use, it was postponed until the start of this year.

The winner for this award is always in George's year, the class who joined in 1997. It was this year awarded to somebody who excels in both their understanding and interpretation of literature, as well as in the creation of their own, M. Bima Hertz. He has

been judged by the English Department as being one of the most avid and critical readers of literature in his year.

Bima's particular interest lies with expressing moral issues through his creative writing, which is why he won the original poetry competition last year. He also enjoys good, modern literature like Thomas Harris' horror novels, and Tom Clancy's spy novels - in his words, "a good read." These books have had a great influence on his creative writing, which works around similar genres.

Bima was good friends with George in Year Seven, which makes winning the award all the more rewarding.

Simon Davis, Year 12

The Christmas Concert

A Few Words from Mary and Joseph!

David and Carol played Mary and Joseph in the Drama Groups interpretation of a John Arden play about the Christmas story. Here's what they have to say:

Rehearsals and more rehearsals! We did more rehearsals than we could possibly imagine but it was worth it as we improved each time. The time passed quickly and soon it was the actual night.

It was nerve wracking and we were physically shaking until we got on stage. But we put everything we had into our performance and afterwards we felt great. It was really exciting. We can't wait to do another show!

David Servante and Carol Waite from The Drama Group.

We knew the dances quite well so we could concentrate on looking professional and enjoying ourselves.

It was a bonus to sing carols in the restaurant after our performance and the mulled wine helped the audience to join in as well.

The evening certainly got everyone in the Christmas spirit and was an event not to be missed!

Esther Gunn, Year 8

The Christmas Concert, in Verse!

*Hey that instrument is mine,
Miss Thackrah serving hot mulled wine,
Miss Spencer worrying out of her skin,
Put your rubbish in the bin.
We had lots of sweets and lemonade;
On and on the music played.
When it had finished, "Hooray" said Ben,
We had to do it all again.
We did it again. "More lemonade!"
You can't have another, I'm afraid.
We had to dance around the stage;
Aimee said, "Can I have my wage?"
"Don't you do this for the fun?"
"No, I did it for my Mum."
When it finally finished we were all relieved,
And Mr Whiteley was intrigued.
Mr Coffey gave a clap,
Then Ollie made up a well good rap.
Becky thinks that he's a nut.
That's my story of the Christmas concert.*

Elliot Hawker, Year 7



Christmas Spirit

The Dancers' View

A night to remember!

There had been a lot of hard work beforehand but as we met backstage there was a relaxed atmosphere and sense of fun. As the final hairstyles were put in place and the splashes of glitter were applied, we were all set for a great evening.

Answer to Junior Maths Challenge

E: 6/11

Narnia on Stage!

The Junior Youth Theatre brought Narnia to life in the Theatre on 30th January as they performed an adaptation of CS Lewis' Prince Caspian.



Caspian runs to the forest to beg help from the Old Narnians

Improvisation workshops

We started improvising around the Narnia theme a long time before we got the script. I enjoyed devising mysterious animal actions because they were fun and it wakes up your imagination. Sian Hughes, Year 8



Dr Cornelius helps Caspian to escape

Rehearsals

When we first started rehearsing, it was fun not knowing what to expect. I played Dr Cornelius, a half-human, half-dwarf, which meant I could act a bit strange and sly and use dwarf like movements. Gina Stead, Year 9

A visit to Radio Derby

We advertised Prince Caspian on Radio Derby. It was my first time in a radio studio so I was pretty nervous. The morning after we'd recorded at Radio Derby we sat at home listening out for our excerpt. It was great! Matthew Hughes, Year 9



The evil dwarf Nikabrik is finally destroyed

The Performance itself

When the evening came I think we were all nervous but once we started it felt like we never wanted it to end, and the atmosphere that evening was buzzing with excitement. I think we all performed really well and the whole evening was immense fun. I would love to do the whole performance all over again! Phaedre Holmes, Year 9.



Waiting at the station: Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter are whisked away back into the land of Narnia

Arts

LFYT and the Primary Proms

4000 Birmingham school children were treated to the Landau Forte Youth Theatre style of Music Theatre, at the Symphony Hall in January.



LFYT at the Symphony Hall

The Youth Theatre were invited by 'Music for Youth' – the people who produce the schools' proms – to entertain children with music, movement and drama.

Our latest production, 'Telling Tales', is a collection of short stories that are

presented in the style of children's musical theatre.

We had to work quickly for this commission, being so close to the Christmas show. However, the Youth Theatre invested extra rehearsal time into this special challenge. It was certainly worth it, as the children in the audience loved the energy of physical theatre, the catchy tunes and the enthusiasm of our performers.

We hope to produce some of the tales for the audience at the Musical Performance of the Year on May 15.

A Coffey

Devised Work Competition



Most outstanding performance in Dance:
Bethany Dickson



Most outstanding performance in Drama:
Ross Vernon



Most original performance in Dance:
Claire Vasey and Danielle Griffin

The Devised Work Competition was a sell out once more!

Finalists from dance and drama performed alternately in front of

a panel of judges. Tension mounted as the evening progressed and the audience was treated to some outstanding performance work from students across all key stages.

During the adjudication, Landau Forte Youth Dance performed 4 original pieces of dance.

A Spencer



Most promising performer in KS3 Dance: Laurissa Hamilton



Most promising performer in KS3 Drama: Chantelle Archer

Here's an account from two of our performers:
We have entered the Devised Work

Competition twice now and both times it has involved a lot of organisation and planning. We have found it good to plan your script at least two months in advance and then practise, practise, practise! It helps to be in a group with people you can work well with and who are committed to the performance. The night of the performance is 'all hands on deck' and the tension starts to grow. You may start panicking beforehand, but once you are on the stage, acting or dancing, you forget all about it.

The night is truly memorable. It really brings the imagination of the students alive. Pieces of their own work devised without help, performed in their own individual way. It's a wonderful feeling and a performance evening to remember.

Gemma Hufton and Penny Stead, Year 9.



Most original performance in Drama: Leanne Warner, Sam Mason, Jennie Hawksworth, Vicky Baldwin and Beth Rogers

Poetry Corner

In term 2, 7L3 and 7F2 wrote two epic poems about the fabulous Beowulf. This is a taste of their ability to put that legend on paper. Out of the fifty-two excellent verses, these were selected so the story could be passed on to another generation. Read on and try not to be too afraid.

S Tokelov

Beowulf, the big wolf, comes to Hrothgar.
Beowulf the bravest man is coming to Hrothgar's hall,
Beowulf is here to take on the mighty Grendal.
Beowulf, oh Beowulf, the strongest of us all.

Grendal is coming, the drums are rolling.
Look here. Look there. He could appear from anywhere.
Floorboards creaking, warriors lightly sleeping,
Beowulf turns and looks into Grendal's piercing stare.

Beowulf struggles to defeat Grendal,
As he rips flesh off the mortal body.
Rapidly coming back for more and more.
Grendal's arm, Beowulf tears off boldly.

Another feast, another great meal,
A horn of mead, a wild boar again.
A hearty hall, with many men with strong mead!
A hearty hall now Grendal has not remained!

Beowulf was waiting to be crowned,
In his throne of gold and purple drapes.
Beowulf with his mighty battle sword,
He was crowned in a velvet gold rimmed-cape.

A poor man stole from the fierce dragon,
The beast dismantled them till they were dead,
Nasty, nasty dragon, leave my people alone.
But it caused terror and severed their heads.

Beowulf was slashing away.
Beowulf was fighting for his life.
Beowulf weakened as he fought.
Beowulf then dropped his shining knife.

Beowulf lay there mortally wounded,
His battle-worn body facing the skies,
His veins ebbing with poisonous venom,
His life rushing before his very eyes.

There he lies silently taking his death,
Blood spurting everywhere, trying to live,
Thoughts rushing to and fro in his head.
He's done and given as much as he can give.



Sports Report

Aiming High!

Bright and early on Sunday 2nd December, 2001, Miss Smith, 7 students and several parents met at College and set off to Lincoln. The students were the College's first representatives in the Regional Schools Trampoline Competition. The journey to Lincoln was fairly uneventful, we even had time to have a tour of Lincoln city centre, only because we missed the entrance to the leisure centre and couldn't find anywhere to turn around!

During the morning, the boys competed in the Under 13 closed competition, whilst the girls showed off their spectating skills. In the afternoon, all 5 of the girls were competing around the same time within different age groups (Under 13s, Under 15s and Under 19s) and on different trampolines. We all had to wait and see if Maryam would remember all 10 moves in the right order – not once, but twice!

So, after what turned out to be an eventful day, we set off back to the College. The most

dramatic part of the day had to be the journey home, where a miscalculation of height nearly cost us the roof of the bus and our lives! (Perhaps a small exaggeration!) Minutes later we arrived safely back at College, 12 hours after we had first left it, thoroughly worn out but having enjoyed the 'experience' immensely. A great day out: - how about the same again next year?

The results:

Steven Bathurst U13 closed – 5th
Stuart Parker U13 closed – 4th
Clare Lambert U19 closed – 8th
Amie Pople U13 open – 4th
Charlotte Reeks U15 open – 5th
Laura Harris U15 closed – 11th
Maryam Ghavam-Shahidi U15 closed – 6th

Due to an injury, Amie Pople qualified through to the next round of the Zonal Schools Trampoline Competition on the 27th January. Amie did fantastically well, coming 10th out of 36, with all of the people finishing above her being a grade higher than she is.

Clare Lambert, Year 11

Student Profile 1

Name: Katie Mather
Age: 16
Sport: Athletics: 100m and 200m

"It was my junior school teacher who spotted my athletic abilities and suggested I might enjoy joining a local athletics club. At the age of 11 I joined Derby Ladies, who are based at Moorways Stadium. This enabled me to receive proper coaching and the opportunity to take part in competitions.

My natural speed soon drew me to the sprints and long jump. As I developed, I found myself specialising more on the sprints, eventually dropping the long jump, mainly through injury.

I am currently Under 17s Derbyshire County Champion at both 100m and 200m and have represented Derbyshire in various Inter-County competitions. Last year I also represented Derbyshire in the English Schools Track and Field Championships, in Exeter. My personal best times are 12.3 sec and 25.3 sec for the 100m and 200m, respectively. These times are classed as National standard. UK Athletics' produce a national rankings list and I am currently in the top 20 for my age group in both track events.

Last Summer I was invited to run in an exhibition race at Gateshead Grand Prix meeting. Whilst it was a very nerve-racking experience, running in front of thousands of spectators at a televised meeting, it was also great fun, as I had full access to all areas and was able to mix with top international athletes, like Jonathan Edwards and Steve Backley.

In addition, I have been invited to attend the UK Athletics Academy at Loughborough University, where I hope to improve my technique and times for the forthcoming season."

We wish her every success for her sporting future.



Katie Mather with
Colin Jackson

Sports Report

Girls' Football

During November in 2001, we played our first cup match, in the CTC Annual Football Championships, against Skegness at Chester Green. We won 19-3; the game, as you can tell by the score, was fairly easy to win. Sade, Suzie, Emma and Kylie scored, and Heidi was the respectable goalkeeper as she only let in 3 goals.



U14 Girls' Football Team at King Edward VII, Norfolk

We had loads of subs, which really worked to our advantage because no one on the pitch on our side was particularly worn-out. Miss Smith just kept rolling people on and off. The weather was cold and the pitch was wet and muddy. In fact, it was like a mud bath on the pitch, but that didn't dampen our spirits. We played our hardest and won.

During the next game, we played Birmingham, but we had a little disadvantage. We had our jabs on the day we played them, but we still won 3-1. I felt that they played better than Skegness, and we had to really pull together as a team to ensure we won.

In the next stage of the competition, we played against Norfolk. We played them away, so we had a long trip on the mini bus. The journey was worth it, though, because we won 7-0. I thought it was very cold but not as wet, or as muddy as the other times, so the game was less strenuous.

Our most recent game was against Thomas Telford, which we played at home. It was wet, cold and muddy (again!). The opposition were very challenging and we lost 4-2. Our team played well, but Thomas Telford was the better side on the day. Still, we were proud to have got into the quarter-finals.

Sarah Minall and team, Year 9

Student Profile 2

Name: Hannah Collar
Age: 14
Sport: Karate

Later this year, an up-and-coming student of Landau Forte College, Hannah Collar, has earned the opportunity to represent karate on a national scale for the United Kingdom.

She has been lucky enough to be able to train alongside Samantha Walters, the European champion for this type of Karate, or more precisely Wado-Kai, which helped her to gain the abilities she required to win the regional championships, in the East Midlands, in May. After this victory, she has only recently earned the chance to participate in the UK championships, which involves training sessions all over the country, with the most recent being in Wolverhampton.

Hannah has been devoted to sport since she was very young, initially applying herself to sailing. At the age of six, she had her first boat, and has since been sailing all year round, whether it be at Swarkestone's Gravel Pits or in the sea during the warmer summer months.

This achievement in karate has taken an abundance of intensive work; training for three nights a week, equalling twenty-four hours of preparation every month. This means a lot of time spent in Ripley, the centre in this region for Wado-Kai, and she admits it couldn't have been done without the support of Sue and Mick Ryde.

Hannah has been training like this for almost a year now, after an injury prevented her from continuing with ballet. Although this sounds like a short time, she has managed to work her way up to the blue belt – for the uninitiated this is two belts away from the elusive black belt, all within a year!

We all wish Hannah the best of luck at the UK championships.



Hannah Collar

Sports Report

Sports Round Up

National CTC/Sports Colleges Football Tournament

Sixty-three CTC and specialist Sports Colleges from around the country entered the U12 and U15 boys' competition and forty-six in the U14 girls. The results and progress of Landau Forte's team are as follows:

U12 boys	1st round	LFC v Djanogly, Nottingham	WON	7 - 2
	2nd round	LFC v Skegness	LOST	2 - 1
U14 girls	1st round	LFC v Skegness	WON	14 - 4
	2nd round	LFC v Kingshurst, Birmingham	WON	6 - 1
	3rd round	LFC v King Edward II, Norfolk	WON	7 - 0
	Quarter final	LFC v Thomas Telford, Staffs	LOST	4 - 2
U15 boys	1st round	LFC v Skegness	WON	2 - 1
	2nd round	LFC v Arrow Vale, Worcester	WON	5 - 1
	3rd round	LFC v Kingshurst, Birmingham	LOST	2 - 1 (aet)

Overall, a very successful tournament, especially for the girls' U14 and boys' U15 teams, who made it into the last eight and sixteen respectively in the country. An excellent achievement considering the number of specialist Sports Colleges that entered, well done!

Football Results

Despite this being out of season there was one football result regarding the post 16 team:
Landau Forte College 4 - 1 Regent College, Leicester.

Landau v Forte Sports House Shield 2002-2003

The competition for the shield has started with some boys' football results:

Year 7	Landau	Won	3 - 3	(Landau won on penalties)
Year 8	Landau	Won	7 - 1	
Year 9	Forte	Won	3 - 1	
Year 10	Landau	Won	2 - 1	
Year 11	Forte	Won	0 - 2	

Sports House Shield so far:

Landau	3
Forte	2

Other sports will be played throughout the year.

District Cross Country Championships

Over forty students from Landau Forte entered the competition, which included some notable and pleasing performances from our students.

Student Representative Honours and Achievements

- Football** - The following Year 10 boys have been selected to represent UNDER 15 Derby Schools in football: Andrew Barrett, Nathan Croot and Patrick Shepard.
 - Karate** - Hannah Collar in Year 10 was winner in her age group in the National Championships.
 - Judo** - Daniel Impey in Year 11 participated in the National UNDER 16 National Championships.
 - Rugby** - Richard Huddleston, Year 9, and Charlie Woodward, Year 10, have been selected to represent Derbyshire.
 - Netball** - Lousie Walker, Year 11, has achieved her National Governing Body Award in Netball by attending the development programme.
 - Tennis** - Robbie Davy-Cripwell won the Men's National Tournament in his league, whilst Harminda Mashiana, Year 11, attended a tennis camp of excellence in Australia.
 - Athletics** - Katie Mather, Year 11, has been invited to attend the UK Athletics Academy at Loughborough University.
- Congratulations to all these students for their dedication, commitment and achievement in their selected sport.

Bobsleigh for Britain!



Vicky Thrower and Miss Sharples (standing)

College tutor, Miss Sharples, shares her breathtaking experiences of competing with the British Bobsleigh team on the World Cup Circuit, as the nation competed for a place at the Winter Olympics, in Salt Lake City.

I received a phone call to inform me that one of the British brakewomen had sustained a back injury and was unable to compete on the rest of the World Cup Circuit: would I be able to fly out and join them? Of course, I didn't hesitate. With Mr. Whiteley's permission and the support of the rest of the College, my bag was packed and I was on a flight within 48 hours.

My first few days were spent at the Team GB Winter Olympic Training Centre, in Lofer, in Austria. Time to get in a few track and weights sessions, acclimatise to the cold weather and get back into the swing of runner polishing, before heading to the next World Cup venue, Konigssee, in Germany. It is the first time a track of such technical difficulty has been included in the Women's World Cup Circuit. Konigssee is the only track to have a 360-degree Kreisel, suspended high in the air; it is an impressive sight deserving its reputation for being the most demanding track in Europe.



Vicky Thrower and Miss Sharples on the track

A driver must qualify their sled for each race by taking a number of practice laufs (runs) in the week prior to the race. Three out of six laufs completed upright, no mean feat on a track of this calibre, should grant you a place in the weekend race. As some of the brakewomen were in need of a rest or nursing injuries from previous races, I pushed with all three drivers during the training week. We qualified all the sleds with only minor mishaps. I was disappointed not to push on race day, although it wasn't a good race for GBR, with two out of three drivers crashing early on. No time to feel sorry for ourselves, we packed up, loaded the sleds onto our lorry and headed on to Igls, Austria.



The British team

Small snowy villages are transformed into a hive of activity overnight as bobsledders and skeleton athletes from 30 different nations descend at the location for the next race in the series. At Igls all the hotel rooms were rented out, trucks and vans were parked in every available space. The locals suddenly found every lane of the running track and all the local gyms full of lycra clad athletes and residents even gave up their garages to allow the teams to work on the sleds after dark.

Training at Igls was a huge success and everyone was looking forward to the race, no one more than I was, because at last I was given my chance to compete for GBR. I would be pushing the GBR 3 driver and we both felt we had a lot to prove. As it happens the race was a tremendous success, as Vicky and I achieved her highest finish position of the whole circuit and GBR 1 (Cheryl Done) finished an impressive 7th place. Bobsleigh medals are awarded to 7 places and this meant plenty of points for the GBR team. This year points really did make prizes, for the top 10 Nations points

scores would earn them the right to take two sleds to the Winter Olympic Games at Salt Lake City.

After a short break back in the UK we once again headed off for the snow. This time it was to Salt Lake City, Utah. An international training week on the Olympic track gave all of the Nations the opportunity to practice driving the track and gather vital information about how much weight should be added or taken out of the sleds, which runners to use and which ice lines give the fastest drive. Salt Lake is one of the fastest Bobsleigh tracks in the world; it is completed at speeds of over 80 mph making it an exhilarating ride with a quick turn around back to the top. Steve, our resident British Olympic Association physiologist, constantly monitored the effects of sliding everyday and training at this altitude. Our bodies were having to acclimatise rapidly to the demands of sliding here, and the information gathered is essential for the BOA when they put together training programmes to ensure athletes are as well prepared as possible for the Olympic Games.

For those of you who have seen the film Cool Runnings, I can assure you that our next destination, Calgary, lived up to expectations! As we exited the airport doors, I only just resisted the temptation to wear all of my clothes at once! The temperature change and biting wind made it difficult even to speak.

The track itself is fantastic. Starting high above Calgary City, sleds are literally pushed off over the edge towards the sea of light below. Everyone was feeling exhausted by now and injuries were creeping into the team. Only Nicola Gautier and I were able to train in the first few days. We took it in turns to push for all the drivers, several of whom were sitting in the sled at the start as they were recovering from pains and strains picked up over the rest of the circuit.

Calgary was my first experience of crashing in Bobsleighs. Unfortunately, it was an experience repeated twice in quick succession! Crashing in a Bobsleigh is not a pleasant experience, as you continue to do about 80mph but upside down with nothing except your burning arm muscles to hold you in. Some of the first Bobsleigh advice I received will always stay with me: "If you've crashed and you can feel your shoulders getting hot, stick your head out onto the ice". Ice burns are one of this sport's biggest hazards; writing off a crash helmet is definitely a preferable option.

The British team had mixed fortunes in the final WC race. With GBR 1 and 3 nursing injuries the start times were slower than we would have liked. Michelle Coy in GB 2 compensated with a very impressive drive to keep the points totals up. There was a nervous wait and a medal presentation, complete with snowball fight, an area at which GBR always puts up a good show, while Nation points totals were added up. We were tired but triumphant. Mission accomplished, having qualified in the top ten, 2 sleds will be competing for medals in Salt Lake City in the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Cheryl Done and Nicola Gautier (a heptathlete currently ranked number 3 in Britain) make up GBR 1 team, while Michelle Coy and Jackie Davies (whose sister Sam ran for GBR relay team in the Sydney Olympics) are the partnership for GBR 2. The campaign started at 5am BST on Feb 20th, so I set the video to record!

Overall, it was an awesome experience I will never forget, and I wouldn't have changed a minute of it. A huge thanks to Mr Whiteley and the tutors who were so supportive and covered for me, giving me the chance to do something that may have only remained a dream.

G Sharples

Duke of Edinburgh Success!



Celebrations!

On Wednesday 16th January, Miss Fawcett, Mr Whiteley and myself attended a very special evening at the Guild Hall, which gave us yet another reason to be proud of our College. It was the presentation evening and celebration of success for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, hosted by David Finn, Head of Youth Services, and Sue Kent, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Officer. The presentations were made by Andy Oakes, of Derby County, Councillor Hardyal Dhindsa, and Ian McCambridge the West Midlands Duke of Edinburgh's Regional Officer. Many of our students were there to receive certificates and badges to credit their achievements.

Our bronze achievers this year were: Daniel Astle, Adam Bibby, Helen James, Elizabeth Rogers, Saeed Shan, John Siviter, Simon Smith, Shelley Wheatley and Sarah Whitehouse. Many of these students have progressed to silver level and look set to achieve this award in the very near future.

The most prestigious award of all is the gold award. This year five of our students have achieved this accolade. They are: Nathan Gunn, Paul James, Robert Lucas, Ruth Lucas and Christopher Manning. They were recognised at the ceremony and later this year will visit Buckingham Palace to receive the award from the Duke of Edinburgh in person.

C Doody

If you are interested in starting the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, but are not sure of what it entails, please come and see me and I will talk you through what is involved. A brief summary of this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Award calendar is as follows:-

Duke of Edinburgh Programme 2002

Term 3, week 7: Sunday 24 February
Sunday afternoon orienteering in Derby, possibly Allestree Park. Meet at LFC and walk to the park, complete orienteering and walk back to LFC. Bronze students only.

Term 4, week 1: Sunday 24 March
Sunday walk at Carsington Reservoir and surrounding villages (6 or 7 miles). Bronze students only.

Term 4, week 6: Sunday 28 April
Practice walk in White Peak for bronze and silver students carrying full kit.

Term 4 (May)
Practice expeditions for both bronze and silver students.

July
Assessed expeditions for bronze and silver.

Life After Landau



Melanie Wellsmith

Melanie Wellsmith (née Wells) was a student at Landau Forte College until 1994. She says: "My memories of Landau are all happy ones." After gaining a background in the sciences, she now works as a Crime and Incident Analyst for Sussex Police. Here, she comes face to face with situations that most of us would only encounter in the company of Inspectors Morse and Frost!

Melanie began a Chemistry degree on leaving College, but decided this wasn't for her. She transferred to and completed a Law degree, then found her true vocation while studying for an MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Melanie says that her kind of work: "really took off after research into policing methods highlighted the success of intelligence-led policing." She works alongside a Criminal Intelligence Analyst, "although in reality the way we split the work means our roles are virtually identical."

On a practical level, her work focuses on three main areas: "target profiles which give information about current criminals including who they associate with, where they offend, the types of offence they commit and how these are facilitated, areas of exploitation, gaps in knowledge, etc.

"Hot Spots, which are geographical concentrations

of higher than average crimes. For these we map where offences have occurred and then look at the times and days for the identified hot spot. Any similarities are highlighted and patrols are directed to these areas in order to achieve a reduction in crime. Community Safety Officers may also become involved in order to work with local partnerships to identify long term solutions to these problems.

"Finally, we also look for series of crimes which are offences committed by the same offender or group of offenders. In-depth analysis is carried out on the MO, location, times and so on in an attempt to identify who may be responsible and methods for bringing the series to an end."

For those interested in a career in this area, you need to be: "able to work with large amounts of data, organised, highly computer literate, an excellent communicator, and prepared to work long unsociable hours when necessary." At some forces, a statistical background is considered advantageous.

We wish Melanie every success in her future career plans, which involve current studies for a PhD in 'Crime at English Seaside Towns'.

J Grant

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