



The Baroness Brigstocke, CBE 1929-2004



Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of Governors, at the official opening of Landau Forte College, along with the first Chairman of Governors, Mr Jonathan Sieff, the Founding Sponsor, Mr Martin Landau, the first Principal, Mr Peter Shackleton and his successor, Mr Stephen Whiteley

Principal's Message



As we approach the end of another busy and successful year we have, of course, been deeply saddened by the sudden death of our Chairman, the Baroness Brigstocke. A tribute to her is included in this edition of Newslink. The Deputy Chairman of Governors, Mr Peter Ashworth, former senior partner of Edwards Geldard and HM Coroner for Derby, has been appointed by the Board of Governors as Acting Chairman for an interim period.

This news was further compounded when we heard of the untimely death of former Parent Governor, Mr Ghazi Asif, who died following a long illness. Mr Asif served the Governing Body well, bringing in his experience from the world of engineering. He had been a long serving employee of Rolls Royce. Three of his children have been students at the College, covering a period of almost ten years and we send our sincere condolences to his family.

During the year there has been much to celebrate and we are hopeful that the coming examination results will reflect the effort and determination of all concerned.

We have a number of staff leaving this summer, most of who have been at the College for several years. I would like to thank all of them for their contribution to the College and wish them well for the future. Special mention must be made of Joy Holmes, who has been at the College for ten years, Joanne Fagan for six years, and Maurice Webb for almost eight, and he has the distinction of retiring for the second time in his career! Those leaving include:

Alison Barton ICT Taking up another appointment

Ian Cottrill Business Studies Relocation

Joanne Fagan Curriculum Leader German Leaving teaching

Joy Holmes German and Spanish Taking up another appointment

Mark Kay Curriculum Leader French Relocation

Nigel Maddock Curriculum Leader Physical Education Relocating and further promotion

Karma Palmer Mathematics Career change

Julia Priestnall Science Taking up another appointment

Marie Rooney Science Promoted to Head of Science

David Searle History Joining 6th Form College

Keely Smith Physical Education Promoted to Head of Department

Maurice Webb Technology Retiring

We have successfully recruited and have also taken the opportunity to reshape our tutorial staff team to meet the curriculum demands for the coming year. There are exciting developments planned; BTEC First Diploma courses will be studied by approximately 50 students in Year 10 in the areas of Engineering, Design and Business. The College will install digital data projectors in almost all of the learning bases. The wireless ICT network will be upgraded and tutorial staff will have laptop computers available to them to enhance teaching and learning. Additionally, routine planned maintenance will take place to ensure that the learning environment is maintained to the highest standard.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your continued help and support. I hope you enjoy reading about recent events at the College.

Stephen Whiteley
Principal

Bob Laxton MP Visits The College

Last term, the College received a visit from the Rt Hon Bob Laxton, Labour MP for Derby North. His visit was based around the Back to School scheme, which involves leading public figures returning to schools to raise public awareness of the Global Campaign for Education.

The Global Campaign for Education seeks to highlight the problems concerning learning. In the world today there are 115 million children out of schooling, of which two thirds are girls.

Mr Laxton was present to promote the campaign, but he was also grilled by the present Year 13s on such hot topics as the recent war in Iraq and university fees. He also spoke to Key Stage 3 Student Council members about his work in politics. We thank Mr. Laxton for his visit and for promoting the scheme. As the campaign notes state: "Education is the single most powerful weapon against poverty. It gives people a voice."

David Holmes, Year 13



Bob Laxton MP addressing our students

Schools Quiz Championship

On March 25th 2004, 25 of the College's brainiest students participated in the qualifying round of the second UK Schools Quiz Championship. They were required to answer a series of multiple choice questions on a vast array of subject areas.

Before you decide that this was an overly easy undertaking, there was one small catch: if the students guessed at an answer and gave an incorrect response they lost a mark. Therefore it was entirely possible to get a negative score at the end. Fortunately, many of our students soon wised up to the idea that if they were unsure they should make no response and gain nothing rather than risk losing a mark.

As a result of this successful strategy, Landau Forte College has qualified to participate in the

final, both in the team and individual event. The finals will take place on Saturday 10th July at UMIST. The following students have been invited to attend: Carolyn McCrone, William Esposito, Christopher Arran, Elliot Baker, Alexander Fletcher, David Holmes, Simon Leonard and Steven Hanson. These were the highest eight scorers in the College.

Special congratulations should go to Christopher Arran, from Year 7, who is considerably younger than the rest of the finalists. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all the best of luck for the finals.

D Fawcett

Our Inspiration

The Baroness (Heather) Brigstocke was the inspirational Chairman of Landau Forte College until her untimely and tragic death in April of this year. She joined the Board of Governors in 1993 at the invitation of Martin Landau (Prime Sponsor) accepting the Appointment of Chairman shortly afterwards.

She brought to the Board a wealth of knowledge and expertise gained from within both education and her experience of the wider world. She had successfully led two schools, firstly as Headmistress of Francis Holland School, London and then the pinnacle of her career as High Mistress of St Paul's Girls' School. She had also lived and worked internationally, developing a wide range of contacts, many of whom she engaged to the benefit of the College.



Lady Brigstocke, Mrs Coffey, Mr Whiteley and Mr Collins at the 10th anniversary celebrations

Her passion for education remained strong and she was a powerful advocate for the College, committing fully to the concept of giving each individual child the best possible opportunity. Her extensive experience in the independent sector of education was the foundation upon which she broadened her knowledge and understanding of the state sector, fully committing to it. Her strength was her over-riding passion for teaching and learning and her personal unquenchable thirst for knowledge. She had the vision to see beyond structures and systems and focus upon the needs of the child. She was not motivated by organisational detail but championed the importance of high quality teaching and learning. She believed that children should be challenged and stretched, that they should be guided and encouraged but not led by the hand. Her position as a life peer

in the House of Lords enabled her to question educational thinking on both sides of the House and she was an independent spirit who stood by her principles.

Lady Brigstocke presented those around her with formidable challenges and high expectations but she was also a source of inspiration. A courageous and formidable character, you were

left in little doubt as to her views. She did not suffer fools but equally was a great source of private support to those in need and, in her capacity as Chairman, this included from time to time members of staff, governors and parents.

As Chairman, she led a distinguished Board of Governors with great distinction and style. Her vast experience as Chairman of the Geffrye Museum and the English Speaking Union, along with her ability to utilise the expertise of her fellow Board members, brought great benefits to the College. An active member of both the Governor's Education and Finance and General Purposes Committees she worked tirelessly, maintaining a firm grasp of the challenges and opportunities facing the College. As Chairman she was looking to the future with a great sense of purpose.

A Personal View

For those who became fortunate enough to know her well, the Baroness Brigstocke was a clear thinker but also a lady with a mischievous sense of humour and fun. She had that important ability to detach the personal from the professional and therefore you were able to thoroughly enjoy her company but equally conduct business with her. There are many personal memories that I have of her. When in professional discussions, I was always struck by her capacity to consider and introduce the alternative point of view. Often she would say... 'Ah! Yes but on the other hand...' and you simply knew that you were about to hear an interesting or provocative idea. She would play Devil's Advocate to test your mettle and she never stopped being a teacher! At times she could be impatient with her pupil, if he did not take particular care where the written word was concerned. A stickler for grammar and punctuation, I often gained from the benefit of her experience!

Over the years that I worked with her, she was a great source of wisdom and strength. Firstly as Acting Principal for the College and then as a newly appointed Principal, she gave guidance and advice but with this came support and space in which to grow professionally. We shared our ambitions for the College, as well as our thoughts and aspirations for the education of young people in this country. The many people who have passed through the College have benefited immensely, both directly and indirectly from her presence and influence.

onal Chairman

It was a privilege to have known Heather Brigstocke, not only was she my boss - she also became a friend. In our lives we meet many people - Heather Brigstocke will never be forgotten.

S Whiteley

Profile

- Heather Renwick Brown, teacher and public servant born Reading, Berkshire, 2 September 1929
- Read Classics at Girton College, Cambridge
- Married in 1952, Geoffrey Brigstocke (died 1974, three sons, one daughter)
- Headmistress Francis Holland School 1965 - 1974
- High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School 1974 - 89
- President, Girls School Association 1980-81
- Appointed Life Peer Baroness Brigstocke in 1990
- Chairman of Trustees, Geffrye Museum 1990 -2000
- Chairman English Speaking Union of the Commonwealth 1993 - 99
- Chairman of Landau Forte College 1993 -2004
- An independent national director of Times Newspaper Holdings
- A trustee of the HSBC Educational Trust
- Appointed CBE 2000
- Married in 2000, Lord Griffiths; died Athens 30 April 2004



Lady Brigstocke giving her welcoming speech at the official opening of Landau Forte College



Enjoying a lighter moment with Hazel Moore of the DfES and Arthur Burns, Project Director for the College extension



Lady Brigstocke with Sir Cyril Taylor, Chairman of the Specialist Schools Trust, and Clare Baker, Chairman of the Student Council, following the Post-16 Presentation Awards Evening in 1999

Hot Off The Press!

On the 5th February 2004, 160 Year 7 students and three post-16 sub-editors devoted themselves to emulating the trials and tribulations of an ordinary day in a newspaper production office. The Information Centre closed for the day and was converted into a newsroom, replete with computers, scanners, digital cameras and publishing software. All that was left was for the reporters and editors to do their job, and make the newspaper by the deadline.

A huge amount of credit should be given to the Year 7 students, who, with a smart head and strong heart, went out in search of breaking news. The students wrote some fantastic articles and many were of a standard quite beyond their years. After some swift editing and thoughtful re-formatting, each of the individual articles were ready and waiting to be inserted into the newspaper template.

If any lesson was learned from Newspaper Day, it was the importance of deadlines. Producing a newspaper is a challenge but producing a newspaper within a fixed time-scale makes the task a lot more difficult. Towards the end of the day, brows were beginning to perspire, as the time grew closer and closer to the final print deadline. It was time to pull together as a team and time to concentrate our efforts. The work ethic



Breaking news is covered by our Year 7s

The students' newspapers looked very professional

and team spirit between reporters and editors was brilliant, and our joint efforts eventually saw six high-quality newspapers produced.

Newspaper Day proved to be fun, challenging and rewarding. Everybody involved should be proud not only of their success in the production of the finished newspapers, but, more importantly, take away the memories of an engaging, enlightening experience.

Kris Vernon, Year 12

Formula Schools

The Formula Schools competition has been held annually for the last eight years, but this year Landau Forte College entered its own team of Year 10 engineers. This is a national competition involving over 29,000 pupils from schools across the country; therefore our Year 10s faced some serious competition! The project was intended to promote engineering innovation amongst students by involving them in the design and manufacture of petrol-powered radio-controlled cars.

Teamwork was definitely a key element, and our engineers certainly proved this, eventually creating their own Batman-esque car to race against the other entrants at Silverstone!

Teams are judged on the chic chassis, the dynamic drive-train, the build of the body and the aerodynamics of their car, culminating eventually at the 'race day' at the circuit in

Northamptonshire. Here the many hundreds of student-constructed cars compete against each other in a series of exciting heats. Students are encouraged to develop partnerships with local technology-based companies and the Landau Forte team has been fortunate enough to work with Graham Mulholland and his company, EPM Technology. EPM design and manufacture carbon fibre components for the motorsport industry, including professional Formula One teams such as Toyota and BAR, so our team of engineers were definitely in safe hands!

The team has produced an innovative car design based on a carbon fibre chassis, developed with EPM, with a rear suspension system and drive train, which was designed and built from scratch by our own team. A carbon fibre body shell, designed by the young engineers and manufactured by EPM, together with aluminium wheels, both designed and manufactured by the students, make the car complete. The team would like to thank EPM Technology for their aid in manufacturing the car, and governor, Terry Ousley, who sponsored the team with a very generous contribution.

C Bugg and Nisha Nath, Year 12



Our Year 10 engineers with their petrol-powered car

Primary School CAD/CAM

As part of our drive to develop closer links with some of the primary schools in the local area, I was lucky enough to get involved with a Computer Aided Design and Manufacture project with students from Cherry Tree Hill Junior School and Dale Primary School. The project involved the Year 6 students designing some large novelty plastic paper clips.



Mr Bellamy with the students from Cherry Tree Hill Junior School and Dale Primary School

I was fairly apprehensive before my first lesson with the students, not really knowing what to expect. However, I need not have worried, as the students very quickly started getting to grips with the software. By the end of the first lesson they had all drawn out a standard design for a paper clip and added their own

name to the design. With all of the students' ideas saved onto floppy disks, their work was brought back to College and manufactured on the college CNC Milling Machine. The students were overjoyed when on my next visit they all received the clips that they had designed.

The students' enthusiasm was overwhelming and over the next few weeks they very quickly drew out their next design and made cardboard prototypes. All that remained was for them to draw out their final design onto the computers, ready for them to be manufactured back at Landau Forte College. I was very impressed with the students' creativity and enthusiasm, and it was a real pleasure working with them on this project. I would like to thank both the staff and students of Cherry Tree Hill Junior school for their work in making this project such a success.

K Bellamy

Drugs Awareness Week At Landau Forte College

The College's first "Drugs Awareness Week" ran from Monday 21st June to Friday 25th June and a variety of talks and activities were organised for the staff and students, chiefly by Dr Delbridge, a Science tutor at the College. The aim of the week was to give us the facts about drugs. Instead

of lecturing or enforcing moral codes, the College wanted to provide accessible information, enabling students to come to their own decisions.

A key aspect of the week was the series of special Gatherings organised for each year group. Speakers PC Coupe and former drug-abuser, Mr Kev Johnson, gave talks on both the legal and personal consequences of

taking drugs to Years 8, 9, 10 and 12. Kev Johnson's testimony was a shocking, yet realistic, portrayal of how damaging drugs can be. Another presentation to Year 10 by Mrs Fiona Coope, a Forensic Scientist, included information about pre-employment drug screening. In other Gatherings, the College's Junior Youth Theatre performed a dramatic piece, posing the question: "Why take drugs?" to bring the issue to life. The Gatherings were designed to give students a direct, personal and interesting slant on the real truth about drugs.

As well as various activities in many learning sessions, tutor groups were given a variety of quizzes and activities. Many tutor groups also had discussions about various issues surrounding drug use, including a review of the College's Drug Policy. It gave the students a much more hands-on approach, and provided us with the chance to share views with other students and tutors. Throughout the College there were several colourful display boards, with eye-catching designs as well as important information. The display boards also had web addresses, emails and telephone numbers of the places that people can contact to get further help and information about drugs.

Everyone appreciated the advice and information that they were given during the week, and the students' response was very positive. People could obtain a few more truths about drugs and some of the myths were dispelled. The facts were presented in an accessible and honest way, leaving each person ready to make their own informed choices.

Ruth Shepherd, Year 12



PC Coupe and our students raising drugs awareness at the College



Students from the Junior Youth Theatre put the spotlight on drugs awareness

Meet The Reptiles



Calling all snake lovers! On Wednesday 31st March, Mr Steve Rowland from the Proteus Reptile Trust brought in a variety of rescued reptiles (not to mention Charlie the parrot!), to give a series of talks to all of the Year 7 students, as part of their Zoo Project study.

Excitement mounted as each student had the opportunity to touch the reptiles and ask Steve about their housing, habitat and adaptations. Meeting the reptiles gave all a chance to learn about these fascinating creatures and to appreciate the importance of providing the proper care and attention these animals need.

All of the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and many letters were written later in English sessions, making the event truly cross-curricular, to Steve in Birmingham thanking him for the visit. At three we packed the squirming bags of livestock (we think they were the snakes!) back into Steve's car and said goodbye for another year.

The students met a Bosch's Monitor Lizard

Maths Challenge

Christopher Woods, Year 10, made a name for himself this term by becoming the first Landau Forte student ever to get a Merit in the National Intermediate Maths Challenge. Chris has always had a talent for Maths and he also really enjoys the subject. To get to the national level is an achievement in itself, but to get a merit is outstanding.

Firstly, Chris was selected from Year 10, to take part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. He did extremely well and he, along with a few more students from Landau Forte, took part in the National Challenge.

The test was an hour long and involved some pretty tricky questions. Chris, however, breezed through it, getting the highest mark ever achieved by a Landau student.

Chris wants to take Maths at A-level and is set to do really well in his GCSEs next year. He's set a new standard for the lower years and has created the benchmark for all the other mathematicians in the College.

Ruth Shepherd, Year 12

JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Which of these fractions is nearest to 1?

- A $\frac{12}{23}$ B $\frac{23}{34}$ C $\frac{34}{45}$ D $\frac{45}{56}$ E $\frac{56}{67}$

Is it A B C D E? Answer on page 21

Year 6s Get A Taste Of Landau Forte College



During May, Year 6 students from primary feeder schools across the city of Derby were welcomed into Landau Forte College to take part in a variety of tasks and activities. The event was organised by Mr Holmes in order to create a stronger link with local primary schools and to give their students a taste of secondary education.

The students were met by our staff in the morning and then were divided up into various groups. That member of staff, accompanied by the students' normal teacher, put the students to work on their activities. These tasks ranged from short story writing and web page design to Maths games and artistic designing.

Some students even learned about Chinese languages and culture from our resident Chinese teacher, Jianqing Luo.

Five students, who created their own newspaper to cover the event, recorded the whole day with journalistic aplomb. At the end of it all, every student was given a copy of the newspaper to remind them of their experiences. The Year 6 day was immensely enjoyable and everyone involved must be thanked for their hard work in making it a great success.

G Davies

A Visit To Beth Shalom

On the 19th of April this year, our Year 9 students visited the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre near Nottingham. They looked at many exhibits of artefacts found during the liberation of the concentration camps, for example a small child's shoe, clothing with yellow stars pinned onto them and also many photographs of adults and children massacred by the Nazis.



Laura Thompson adds a stone to the memorial

Students were also invited to listen to a survivor of the Holocaust and discuss his experiences with him. They were fascinated by what he had to say and were able to ask him questions about what it was like for the victims.

Later in the day, the students toured a garden, which had plants and plaques showing names of those killed. There was another garden where students were allowed to throw a stone onto a huge pile of stones, each of which symbolises a child killed. We found out that it would take many years to represent every child if we were to throw just one per day...

Finally, the students watched some video footage of the Rwandan crises and drew comparisons between those tragedies and that of the Holocaust. It was a moving and eventful day, and hopefully the experience will have taught our students a very important lesson indeed.

A Hopper

Our Day Out At The Roaches

On two different days in June 2004, Year 7 students from the College went on a visit to The Roaches in the Peak District National Park. Here is a report from a selection of the students, telling us what it was like:



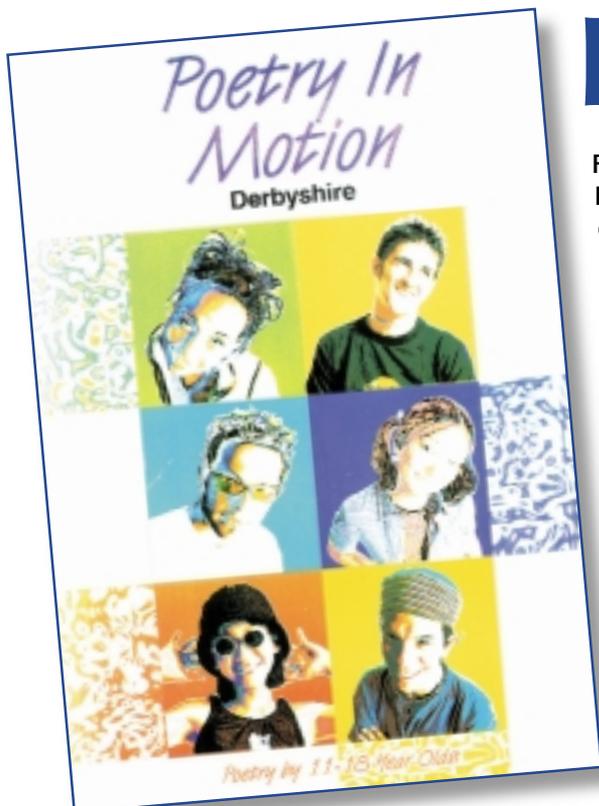
Students enjoying the countryside at the Roaches

The coach journey was one hour long but it seemed much shorter because the coach drivers let us listen to the radio. When we arrived we had a short walk to the site that we were studying and when some people arrived there, they were already worn out.

We were split up into groups and did either Science or Geography in the morning. The Science activity was to use a quadrat, which is a ten by ten squared grid. You drop it on the ground and then you study the species in each section. During the morning it rained and all of our work looked like we had left it in the bath for 2 days. We then had a lot of soggy sandwiches. In the afternoon we swapped activities. Half of us did Geography and the other half did Science.

The Geography activity was to climb a hill and draw the view of the surrounding area, which we really enjoyed. At the end of the day we hiked back down the hill to where the coach was waiting to bring us back to Derby. If you like the great outdoors, spectacular surroundings and don't mind precipitation, then this is the place for you.

Cadell Barker, Sam Elliott, Peter Evans, Amy Jones and Fiona Rudge, Year 7



Poetry In Motion

For the seventh year in a row, Landau Forte College has enjoyed success in the Young Writers' annual poetry competition. 48 students, from across the Key Stage 3 learning groups, have had their work published in the Poetry in Motion Anthology for Derbyshire as a reward for their efforts.

The competition's judges describe the task of selecting poems as 'a difficult but nevertheless enjoyable experience', which reflects the stiff competition our students faced from other schools across Derbyshire.

Receiving recognition for their ideas and creativity elicited happy responses from the students, who were pleased to see their hard work in print. 'It was a great moment,' said Mark Wood, one of the Year 9 students to achieve success, 'and it has given me a lot of confidence in my literary abilities.'

The competition will be run again in Term 1, so get your thinking caps on and your pens out if you see yourself as another budding Benjamin Zephaniah or William Wordsworth.

B Wright

Maintaining High Engineering Standards

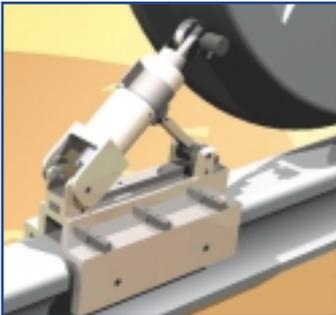


The Engineering Education Team receive their certificates

The success of the Engineering Education Scheme at Landau Forte College has continued to grow over the last three years and working, once again, with AEA Technology Rail, this year was no exception. The relationship between AEA and Landau Forte College has continued to remain strong and this is down to the success of the students. So impressed have AEA been with some of our students, that Joel Sainsbury of last year's team has been offered sponsorship by the company for his Engineering degree course, commencing this autumn.

This year's team had to live up to high standards set by their predecessors. The team, Adrian Bradley, Martin Counter, Graham Holland and Sean Smith, were given the task of developing a prototype which measures defects in train wheels and was designed and built by Saphia Hashim, Timothy Keely, Joel Sainsbury and Jimmy Wang last year. They were to improve the design, build a new prototype and present a design which could be mass produced.

The project began back in October, with the launch being at the National Space Centre. The team were given the brief by the company and the development began. By early December the final design was agreed upon and the design was presented in the form of 3D Computer Aided Design models and detailed drawings, expertly prepared by Graham.



CAD model of the new prototype

It was then off to Loughborough University, to take advantage of the workshop facilities and lectures by leading Engineers, and also to have a taste of university life for three days. Having made big improvements to the original circuit board design, Martin locked himself away in the electronics lab with electronics engineer James Hardy from AEA and carefully set about producing the new board. Mechanical Engineer Martin Bone from AEA and myself, oversaw the production of the mechanical components, with Graham and Sean taking the responsibility of machining most of the aluminium components, with a little help from the other two team members. Prior to going to Loughborough University, Adrian had little experience of engineering processes, but by the end of the three days had developed skills that would make any engineering apprentice jealous.

With the prototype now complete, the team prepared the report and the presentation that would be given to a panel of engineers at the regional assessment day in March. For the third year running, our students were very impressive and they achieved higher scores in all the assessment categories than the regional average of around fifty teams.

On top of their achievements on the day, the team were also awarded Gold Crest Awards and have been invited to attend the regional final of the Young Engineers for Britain. Good luck team and well done!

C Wright

Braving The Elements



On the 22nd of February 2004, Year 12 Geography students took part in a three day trip to Norfolk. Although the journey and the weather did not go as planned, the views and experiences allowed the

students and the teachers a chance to witness and learn new things, and also to have fun together.

On the first day, we took a 6 mile walk along a shingle beach near Blakeney to study sand dune succession, which was tiring but really interesting. Then on the second day, our activities consisted mainly of land-use mapping of Norwich city centre, in the rain. Needless to say, we got drenched.

On the third and final day, we were able to make a short study of coastal erosion before departing back to Derby. We had a really great time, despite the weather taking sides against us. Next time, I will remember to pack my umbrella!

Holly Barlow, Year 12

Osnabrück Work Placement 2004



Year 12 German students at a carnival in Osnabrück

In February 2004, five Year 12 German students from the College headed off to Osnabrück for our work placements. The journey was straightforward, even though we had to brave the German and Dutch train systems after our flight to Amsterdam.

Once in Osnabrück, we nervously greeted our host families and settled into our new environment. At our work placements, lots of people spoke to us in English but at home we had to speak German.

This boosted our self-confidence in speaking German, ready for our AS speaking exams! We went to a football match, went ice skating, visited Bremen with its attractive old town, sampled the highlights of Osnabrück nightlife and went on a float in the carnival!

After 15 days, we managed the long journey home despite getting lost in Holland and having a near miss with a lost bag! All in all, if you are in Year 12, study German and are looking for a fun time, a boost to your self-confidence and an improvement in your German speaking skills, then this is for you.

Mark Blundell, Laura Brannigan and Yousif Siddiqi, Year 12

¿Habla Español?

This year for our work placement, seven of our AS Level Spanish group spent ten days in Granada, Spain. The idea was to stay with a Spanish family and attend a bilingual school during the week. This gave us the opportunity to practice our Spanish, as the parents of the children we were staying with could not speak English. We had a great time and our adopted families made us feel very welcome.



Bianca Hayes and Laura Abbott with some of the students they supported in Spain

We were there for ten days working with a range of students but mainly Year 9s and Year 10s. Whilst there, we were able to undertake a range of different activities, including marking grammar exercises, setting exam questions for classes, being involved with and supporting class discussions, helping with reading activities, playground duties at break times, filing and ICT work.

As well as attending the schools, we also had the chance to explore the region. Some of us went all over Granada and also to Malaga for a day. This gave us a chance to shop and to top up our sun tans! Staying with our surrogate families also gave us the opportunity to try a lot of the typical Spanish dishes, such as paella and Spanish omelette, and we got to see what Spanish life is really like.

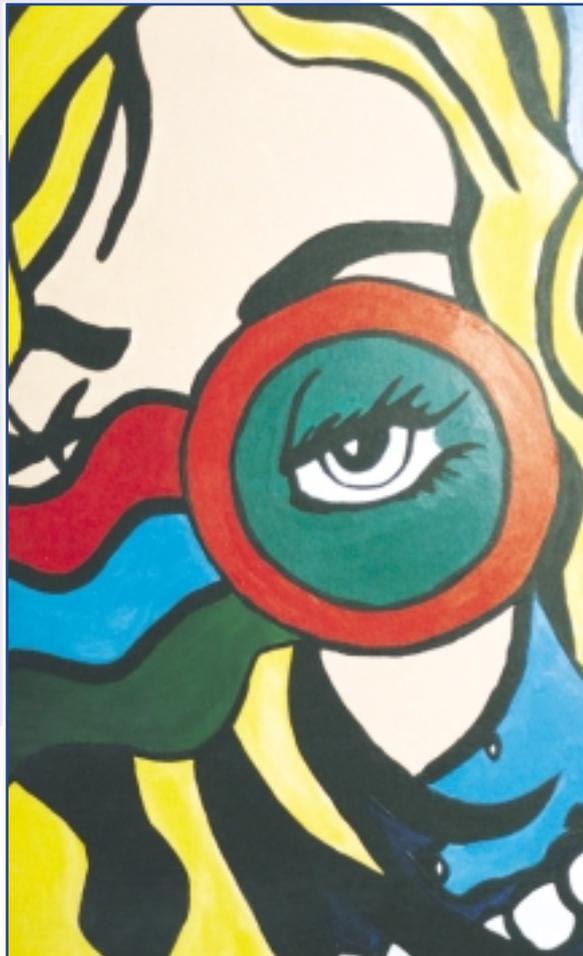
Going to Spain for work placement was a great experience for us and built our confidence in speaking the language. We recommend work experience abroad if ever you have the chance because we now have friends in Spain and some of us have even been invited back for the summer.

Laura Abbott and Bianca Hayes, Year 12

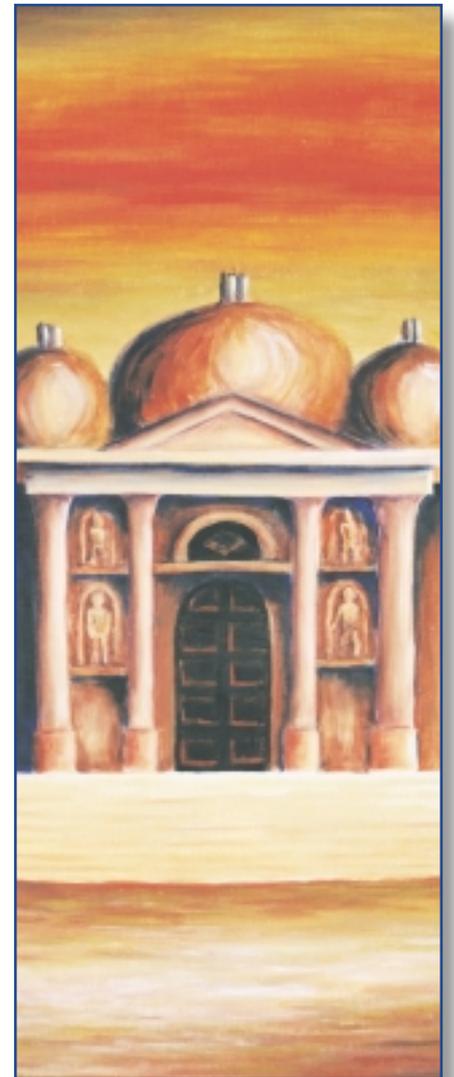
The Gallery



Danielle Taylor, Year 12



The Gallery is a showcase of artwork by Landau Forte's own talented GCSE, AS and A2 students. In this edition, The Gallery presents its most innovative collection so far, from oil paints to chalks, from Realism to Cubism. All of the featured pieces below are by students in Year 12.



Ruth Shepherd, Year 12

Laura Ryan, Year 12

Poetry Corner

Every issue of Newslink we publish pieces of students' writing. This edition we have a poem by Arjmand Kokab, Year 8, which was nominated for inclusion by Mr Collins.

Unfortunately, we are unable to include the full poem, which was more than three pages long, so here is a slice of *Chocolate Cake* for you to sample...

Extract From *Chocolate Cake*

It's the middle of the night,
And I can't see a speck of light.

I'm hungry,
I'm thirsty,
I'm licking my lips.

Food, I need some food,
How about that lollipop I chewed?

No, the chocolate cake,
With the icing on top and coconut shake.

I could go downstairs and eat all of it,
No maybe just a bit.

That way nobody will guess,
And I won't have to confess,

That it was me,

See!

Arjmand Kokab, Year 8

Landau Forte Youth Theatre - Busy As Usual!

Following their award-winning performance in Holland last November at the European Science on Stage Festival, the next stop for Landau Forte Youth Theatre was The Symphony Hall in



The students in the middle of their performance of MUT

Birmingham and the Music for Youth Primary Proms. Two performances to a total of 5000 Birmingham School children confirmed that scientists and children have the same sense of humour. LFYT were invited by Music for Youth, along with four other groups from the Midlands, to present MUT to children who may not have the opportunity to visit such a prestigious venue to experience live music.

Currently, the group is working in the Pulse Project sponsored by the Wellcome Trust. This involved giving a workshop at Manchester University about their new piece 'Cell Out' in June to students, lecturers and teachers. Following the Pulse Project we have been invited to celebrate Easter at Derby Cathedral in our own version of a selection of mystery plays. Phew!

A Coffey



A huge audience came to see LFYT perform

Musical Performer And Dramatic Monologue Of The Year 2004

It takes a lot of determination, hard work, confidence and pride before you find the courage to get up in front of an audience and perform. This is especially true of the Musical Performer of the Year and the Dramatic Monologue Competition. Every performer in the competition deserved to be on stage in front of friends and family. Each one has shown real talent, real energy and real courage.

The Musical Performer of the Year was judged by Kevin Holdgate, one of our peripatetic teachers. Lisa Webster, a former Performing Arts student at Landau Forte College, judged the Dramatic Monologue Competition. The judges were both impressed with the performances and commented on how hard it was to decide. Thank you to all of our judges for their time and expertise.

Rebecca Wilson: Junior Dramatic Monologue Winner

Rebecca, Year 8, wrote her own monologue this year entitled 'Are We There Yet?' The character in this piece was a girl on a trip with her parents. It was set in the car on the way to their campsite and Rebecca portrayed to us a bored and frustrated teenager who was clearly jealous of her friends who were going on better holidays. Rebecca's piece ended with a sequence of slow-motion moves showing that her car had been involved in an accident.

Esther Gunn: Senior Dramatic Monologue Winner

Esther's monologue was Macavity, The Mystery Cat by T. S. Eliot. This piece is one of Eliot's poems which has become famous through the musical 'Cats'. Macavity is a very physical piece which demands an understanding of movement as well as character, a challenge which clearly appealed to Esther, who is in Year 10.

Sophie Beer: Junior Musical Performer of the Year

Sophie, a Year 8 student at Landau Forte College, has been playing the Violin for a number of years. Her piece for Musical Performer of the Year was Concertino, a mature composition which requires technical accuracy and confidence. In addition to her excellent performance of this piece, Sophie showed a confidence and enjoyment in playing for her audience.

Katy Appleby: Senior Musical Performer of the Year

This year Katy Appleby, Year 11, sang Everything I Do by Bryan Adams. This is a song which many people hold close to their hearts and therefore an ambitious piece for anyone to attempt. As this piece was written for a male voice, Katy showed her vocal range and sang beautifully and confidently throughout.

Matthew Arran: Honker of the Year

In addition to our traditional awards, this year we introduced the Honker of the Year. This trophy was awarded to the Honker which showed the most dynamic performance during their piece. So, the first ever winner of Honker of the Year goes to Matthew Arran, Year 7. Well Done!

During the adjudication the audience was entertained by Junior Dance Club, Honkers, Singers and B Flat Posse. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Musical Performer of the Year and the Dramatic Monologue Competition 2004.

S Aherne



Esther Gunn, Katy Appleby, Matthew Arran, Rebecca Wilson and Sophie Beer are awarded with their prizes by Mr Whiteley

Landau Forte Return To The Slopes Of Pila



Back on the slopes:
The Landau Forte Skiers

This year, we returned to the slopes of Pila, following our positive experiences in 2002. Luckily, we were blessed with one of the best snow seasons on record, with regular falls occurring in the Alps from December onwards. Yes, I did check the resort snow falls – at least weekly! Prior to our departure, I learned that our accommodation was being upgraded to 4-star

and that we would be residing in the Class Hotel – lucky us!

Mr M Rowe, Miss C Thackrah, Mr M Kay, parent Mr S Harris and myself accompanied the 31 students this year. We had four visits to Swadlincote Ski Centre during December and January and all students were thoroughly engaged in their ski lessons. They strived to improve their skiing ability, well before we took to the snowy slopes of Pila and therefore I knew we were going to have a very successful Ski Visit.

Once we arrived in Pila, we were met by our Interski Co-ordinator, Simon, who supported the staff and students so well throughout the week. We were also very lucky with the quality of our Ski tutors. All of the students made excellent progress and by the end of the week, both tutors and students were very complimentary about one another at the Ski Presentation Evening. In addition to organising our final evening, Simon put together an excellent après ski programme comprising of bowling, swimming, disco and games evenings.

Thanks must go to our group and the staff of the Hotel Class, as they nominated us the best group of the season in their hotel. In return, College has just received an entire team set of football kit including kit bag; so look out for the smart kit in operation next season!

My thanks to everyone for making our visit to Pila such an enjoyable one and I look forward to returning there next season, when we will have some snowboarders as well as skiers. Obviously Mr S Harris (extreme snowboarder) has inspired some of our skiers to take up a new challenge!

A Holland

Adventure Weekend



Miss Smith and Year 11 all set
for adventure

Year 11 GCSE PE students recently visited the outdoor pursuits centre in Longtown, Herefordshire. Lucy Bryan and Saphia Kharaz tell us what they got up to...

On Saturday we had to get up at 7 am as we were to be caving all day. After a big breakfast, we were given our massive wetsuits that made us look like

Teletubbies. Once we got to the site we had to abseil down a small crevice into the cave. This went surprisingly smoothly even though it was pitch black, apart from Jon Robinson arriving at the bottom with only one welly, as the other was stuck in the wall. After returning to Longtown we quickly ate dinner before setting off for our evening's entertainment, orienteering, which was on a mountain called the Cat's Back overlooking Hereford. It was pitch black except for the light from our head torches and there was a massive waterfall. Some parts of the mountain were so steep, it was just like a slide.

Sunday was our last day. After packing most of our things in the morning we went on the challenge wall. The aim of this is to get all seven members of the group over the wall; the catch being that the wall was made up of smooth planks of wood placed side by side. Each time you completed that height of the wall another plank was added. With everyone standing on each others head and shoulders and being pushed and pulled in all directions, we all ended up covered in mud. Between the two groups, the winning number of planks was 15. We won't mention which group won, except that it wasn't Mr Rowe's.

We then went on to smaller team challenges, like swinging on ropes, down poles, climbing over and under nets and pipes. In the afternoon we went on the climbing wall that was approximately 40 feet high. The whole trip was an amazing experience because it was a good place to have fun with our friends and to have an adventure too. We would recommend it to anyone.

Lucy Bryan and Saphia Kharaz, Year 11

Salou Or Bust

It might have taken 26 hours to get to Salou in southern Spain but it was well worth the trouble. A group of 26 students, along with Miss Holden, Mr Dobson and Mr Rowe went on a football coaching visit to the Costa Dorada. The group set off from College on Saturday 29th May, leaving at 10.00am and travelled right across France to Spain, taking in the magnificent scenery of the Pyrenees.



With Steven Leeson driving and Jack Barker navigating it's no wonder the journey took forever!

The first day was taken up with getting acclimatised and walking around the town, including the beach. On Monday morning, however, after an enormous breakfast, we were at the training ground for 9am where our New Zealander coach Andre put the children through a rigorous

programme of training. The afternoon consisted of a series of "round robin" matches against students from other British schools also using the facilities.

Tuesday was taken up with more training in the morning, followed by matches and then a choice of activities in the afternoon. Some students opted for Football and others for Cricket. At cricket, I managed to get out to both Mr Rowe and Miss Holden and also managed (with Gary Kang as my partner) to achieve the lowest score in a pairs cricket game. On Tuesday night we

went ten pin bowling where again Miss Holden was the star performer, bowling over 120, which was far and away the highest score of the evening.

On Wednesday we visited the Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona. This was very impressive and the 120,000 seater stadium is magnificent. We toured all of the stadium, including the museum and the changing rooms. It was amazing seeing the names of all the stars, past and present, who have played at Barcelona displayed on the lockers. These include such luminaries as Edgar Davids, Gary Lineker and Johann Cruyff, but sadly also included Diego Maradona. We toured Barcelona in the afternoon, reaching the dizzying heights to look down on the city and then made a brief tour of the famous Ramblas.

On Wednesday evening we played a crunch game against our Spanish opposition. They were a very well-organised and skilled side and, whilst the final scoreline did not flatter the College, the individual performances were excellent. Jack Barker and Steven Leeson were both outstanding.

Thursday was a more relaxed day, when the students visited the Port Aventura Theme Park. This was a stunning place, full of exciting, vertiginous rides. The children had an excellent time and conducted themselves superbly. In fact, one thing that characterised the children was their endless good humour and excellent behaviour. One student who truly stands out, though, is Steven Leeson (or The Legend as he was nicknamed). His exploits were many, both on and off the pitch, but my abiding memory will be of regaling our students, and the young ladies from another school, with an impromptu rendition of Evergreen by Will Young. Can Top of the Pops be far off, I wonder?

N Dobson



The Year 8 Footballers in Salou

Laura Harris Achieves Refereeing Ambition

Newslink is proud to report that a Year 11 student from Landau Forte College, Laura Harris, has become the first female referee to officiate the Derby City League Challenge Trophy final. She oversaw the action between Allestree Juniors and Darley Sports in an exciting match at Moorways Stadium.

Laura has been eager to take charge of a cup final and, because of her involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at the College, she has now realised her dream. Students who are part of the award scheme must take part in activities that involve the community, so she used her refereeing skills to great effect.

The training and fitness required of a young referee can be easily underestimated and Laura had to work hard to reach the standard required of a football official. She has also had to put up with abuse from the spectators but she deals with this in a mature way, accepting the fact that it comes with the territory. We wish her all the best for the future, and maybe one day we will see her blowing the whistle at a World Cup final.

G Davies

Sun Continues to Shine for Duke of Edinburgh Unit

Once again it has been a successful year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Unit. Many students in Year 10 have received Bronze awards and around ten students in Year 11 received Silver awards at the Duke of Edinburgh presentation evening at the Guild Hall in March.

This year the Bronze award training responsibilities have been taken on by Miss Aherne and Mr Needham and, since the launch in November, they have been training approximately fifty Year 9s every Monday afternoon.

The Bronze outdoor calendar for this year started with a very successful day at Carsington Water, with the weather being unusually kind to us in February. With a practice expedition in April, followed by an assessed expedition in May, the Year 9s have really enjoyed life in the countryside.

The Silver unit have been active as well and enjoyed some great weather for three days at the end of March on their practice expedition. They are now studying maps and planning routes and campsites in preparation for their assessed expedition in September. Let's hope the good weather that we have enjoyed so far this year stays with us for the rest of the season.

C Wright



Time to relax after a hard day's walking

Year 7 Day At The Zoo

It was just 10 am when we arrived at Twycross Zoo, during April. It was very quiet. Few visitors had yet arrived and the disruption from visiting Landau Forte College Year 7 students was not welcomed by some of the residents. One smart and agitated chimpanzee stood at the top of his cage and directed an early morning urine stream at passing students. No one will own up to interrupting his aim, but I know who it was who received a spraying! Furthermore, an Orang-Utan displayed his discontentment by smashing the glass of his enclosure with his fist!



Even the Sea Lions show off in front of our Year 7s

We had a superb day. The weather was wonderful and the students thoroughly enjoyed their outing, which included an informative presentation by the zoo staff. All of the students worked very hard on their chosen animal projects by collecting species lists and information about the animals.

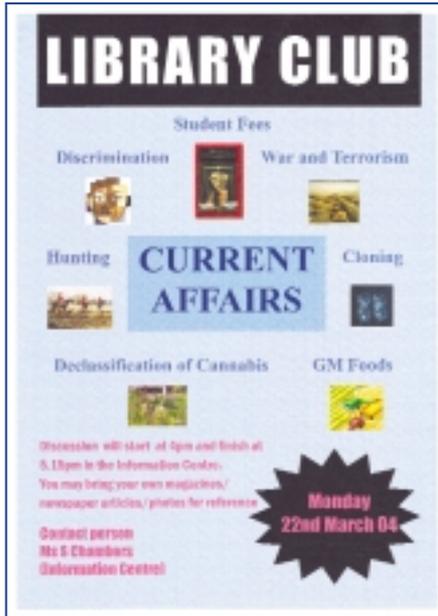
We were sad to find that the tigers and sand cats had been moved to alternative accommodation. However, the lions had bred successfully and looked very proud of their lion cub. The penguins really seemed to be enjoying their new pool and on a hot day it would be tempting to join them. The dogs had been provided with new enclosures since last year and there was a lot of building work going on, so I am sure that next year there will be some new animals to see.

Landau Forte College students behaved impeccably. Which is more than can be said for the zoo's residents!

M Rooney

Answer to Junior Maths Challenge: E

LFC Library Club



The library club that takes place in the Information Centre is now steadily underway. It is held on Monday afternoons from 4 to 5.15 pm on a weekly basis. Chaired by the IC Learning Support Assistant, Ms S Chambers, a variety of topics are covered that appeal to the students in College. There are reading and writing exercises with group discussions and ICT projects to complete. Selections of books are used for research in each session, alongside Internet opportunities for extension work. All completed work is visually displayed on the boards in the IC on a term time basis, accompanied by advertisement posters and supplementary material provided by the IC LSA.

Topics covered so far have been: "A day in the Life of...", where students used a diary format to describe the events of the day through the eyes of a person of their choice; "A journey through space and time", which involved devising a time line back to a historical period and a current affairs discussion on war and terrorism.

Two sessions on British Sign Language attracted a lot of attention, both from the students and staff. This will be introduced again in the academic year 2004-05 for the new intake, because of the positive feedback we received. Students have also been encouraged to contribute a book review to be placed on the IC ALICE system for other students' future reference, with the latest session being "Pets win Prizes", where the students can discuss their pets' characteristics, gain more awareness of animal welfare and be awarded a small prize from the College shop for any accompanying photos that compliment their written work.

S Chambers



Get connected with Connexions!

Connexions is the new title for the Careers Service and our local representatives from Connexions Derbyshire regularly visit College to give advice and help with careers and future choices. However, Connexions goes far beyond this and includes advice on family problems, relationships, money matters, training and even health and transport. If you are aged between 13 and 19 and need someone to talk to about any problem, you can get in touch with Connexions by phone, e-mail or even arrange to chat to an adviser at College.

Having explained Connexions' role, this brings me to the Information Centre resources relating to Connexions. We have now re-organised all of the old careers section to reflect the new

Connexions system and have included many types of materials to support your choices on careers, university, GCSEs, A Levels, employment and personal issues. The resources include books, journals, pamphlets, hanging folders and much, much more. You can browse through all of the sections and photocopy any items.

If you have a problem that you need help with, have a quiet word with Mrs Hewitt for a Connexions interview or the IC staff, and we will try to find the best way to help you. Please remember - you are not alone and there is always a way to solve a problem. Get Connected!

C Holme

Wales In A Week On A Bike

In April 2004, as part of the preparations for my Uganda Expedition in August, I took part in a sponsored cycle across Wales, from Holyhead to the capital, Cardiff. This was in order to help raise funds through the College, for a trip to renovate an existing primary school in Lukotaime, Uganda, and build a further block where teachers can stay whilst they work at the school.

On first hearing of this long-distance cycle, I looked at the route with some trepidation. The aim was to cover the 220 miles between Holyhead and Cardiff, through the rough terrain of Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons, as well as reaching the summit of Snowdon (the highest mountain in Wales) in under a week. However, after some encouragement, and with the added pressure of having to reach my expedition target of £1500, I decided to go for it. So on a dreary Saturday morning, I met up with my Welsh friend, and fellow cyclist, Martyn, at Holyhead docks. During the expedition, we

carried all of the equipment we would need en route and we were well-prepared for the six days of cycling ahead.

The first leg of our trip took us across the isle of Anglesey, past the famed railway station with the longest name in Europe, over Britannia Bridge, and into the heart of Snowdonia National Park, finishing the first day staying near to Llanberis, perfectly placed to go for the summit of Mount Snowdon. The next day we cycled up to Pen-y-Pass, left our bikes in the Youth Hostel, and started to climb the mountain. The weather, however, was not on our side, and, at about three quarters of the way up, high wind speeds and hail made the final push for the summit dangerous. We were advised against going along the ridge to the top, so, disappointed but relieved, we made our way down.

Having retired early from Snowdon, we then had time to get in a bit more cycling and followed our route southwest through Dolgellau to Trawsfynydd. On day three, we woke early, for the longest day of cycling, 47 miles south through the Cambrian Mountains to Rhyader and on to Llanidloes. The next day we continued through the mountainous countryside to Builth Wells and then to Boughrood on the edge of the Brecon Beacons.

Day five was spent in the National Park, making our way to Martyn's home village of Llangynidr. Once there, we set out on the final push for the capital: 40 miles out of the National Park, through Merthyr Tydfil and down the valleys to Cardiff. We finished on Thursday evening outside of the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff Bay. All in all, it was a fantastic experience, whereby I got to see a lot of a country that I had rarely visited before. At times, the cycling became difficult and our target seemed a long way off, but we took care not to lose focus on achieving our goal, not only for ourselves, but for the villagers of Lukotaime.

Shaun Maskrey, Year 13



Shaun and Martyn take a breather from their gruelling journey



The route that Shaun took across Wales in a week

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The Landau Forte College Shop opened on Tuesday 2nd April, 2002 and is here to meet all student needs.

We have a range of both fiction and text books, alongside a large range of stationery, birthday cards, computer equipment, art supplies and maths equipment. We have new stock arriving regularly so come and visit us and see what we have to offer!



Open: Monday to Friday, 8:15am to 8:30am, 9:30am to 10:45am, 12:00pm to 2:00pm

Credits

EDITOR

G Davies

PRINCIPAL

S Whiteley

STUDENT JOURNALISTS

David Holmes
Nisha Nath
Ruth Shepherd
Kris Vernon

STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

Laura Abbott
Cadell Barker
Holly Barlow
Lucy Bryan
Sam Elliott
Peter Evans
Bianca Hayes
Amy Jones
Saphia Kharaz
Arjmand Kokab
Shaun Maskrey
Fiona Rudge

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

S Aherne
K Bellamy
C Bugg
S Chambers
A Coffey
H Coleman
D Credali
A Delbridge
N Dobson
D Fawcett
J Grant
A Holland
C Holme
A Hopper
E O'Mara
R Pioli
M Rooney
J Rolley-Parnell
S Whiteley
B Wright
C Wright

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

D Slater

ADDRESS FOR LETTERS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND ENQUIRIES:

The Editor
Newslink
c/o D Slater
Landau Forte College
Fox Street
Derby
DE1 2LF
Telephone:
01332 204040
Facsimile:
01332 371867

OUR PUBLISHERS:

Impress (Leicester) Ltd
8 Morris Road
Leicester
Telephone: 0116 2100 999
Facsimile: 0116 2100 998



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For further information please contact:
John Cox, Director of Finance and Administration on
Derby 204040

E-mail: cox@landau-forte.org.uk