

# News Link

Landau Forte College Newsletter Summer 06

## Landau Forte College CTC to Academy?

We are now reaching the end the Feasibility Phase of considering the College's conversion to Academy. A great deal of progress has been made which means that we hope, very soon, to be in a position to confirm our decision to convert. The initial timescale for our conversion was 1 September 2007; however, the Minister for Schools, Lord Adonis, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, has invited the College to take up Academy status from 1 September 2006.

The decision on the timing for our conversion will be taken by the Sponsors and Governors of the College and provided that no unforeseen barriers emerge at this stage it is likely that our official status will change from 1 September 2006. (Parents were initially consulted about our conversion by letter in March 2006 and there were no negative responses to the proposal). After the official conversion date we shall continue to build on our success and implement the changes outlined below including the development of the College facilities.

### What are Academies?

Academies are independent, all ability, state-funded schools supported both financially and professionally by sponsors. City Technology Colleges (CTCs) were the founding members of the CTC Trust which has now grown into the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) movement of more than 2900 schools. Academies are also members of this group of schools.

It is intended that there will be approximately 200 Academies nationally and each of the 15 original City Technology Colleges, distinctive and successful in its own right, has been invited by the Government to change its status to an Academy. Almost all of the CTCs are in the process of converting or have already converted. Both the Government and the DfES are enthusiastic for the CTCs to join the programme so that they may share their past experiences and successes both within the wider Academy Programme as well as locally and regionally with other schools, for the benefit of their

communities and the wider system of education.

### Building on Our Success

As an Academy, the College would be able to build upon its success through a number of developments:

1. Specialisation in both Technology and Business Enterprise. The Technology specialism is defined in 4 broad strands:
  - (i) Design Technology.
  - (ii) E-Learning and the application and use of technology to improve learning.



*A time of exciting changes at Landau Forte College*

- (iii) The application of mathematics and science.
- (iv) A design cycle approach to learning. The Business and Enterprise specialism is defined in two broad strands:
  - (i) Business Education.
  - (ii) Developing the Enterprise Culture.
2. To improve practice and share high quality teaching and learning techniques it is intended that the Academy would feature a 'Teaching Practice and Development Centre' where teaching and learning would be observed through technological links without imposing on the learning taking place – a parallel to observing surgery in the medical world.
3. The place of ICT and Multi Media Technology is central to the vision. ICT and ICT practitioner courses will be studied as skill areas in their own right, enabling students to gain qualifications recognised both by the industry and higher education. Critically, along with Multi Media Technology, ICT will be a key tool for learning across the curriculum.

4. The College building and facilities would be extended and enhanced to provide a 21st Century learning environment enabling greater learning opportunities for our students, for students from other schools and for the wider community.

5. The College would extend both the learning environment and educational activities for the benefit of children across the city, by further strengthening our existing strong links with partner organisations locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. This would include primary and secondary schools, further and higher education organisations, Local Authorities and the Learning and Skills Council, as well as our partners from business and industry.

As an Academy we would wish to ensure the following:

1. The retention of our status as an independent state funded school.
2. The College remains accessible to children of all abilities from across the city.
3. The College keeps its distinctive character retaining a

sharp focus upon teaching, learning and achievement. We shall remain determined to raise standards even further within the College and contribute to raising standards within the wider education system.

4. Student learning remains underpinned by the core subjects of Mathematics, English, Science and ICT for all students. Students will also study Modern Foreign Languages, Humanities, Performing and Visual Arts and Physical Education and Sport. Vocational Education will remain a strong feature of our work and will be further extended.
5. The care and support for our students through our vertically aged personal tutorial system remains as a cornerstone of our work.
6. The retention of the key operational characteristics of the College including the five term year, the continuous and extended day, dress code for staff and students, a high quality learning environment along with shared staff and student facilities.
7. The College retains its own Contracts and Terms and Conditions of Employment for all Tutorial and Support Staff.

# Principal's Message

We are ending a year which is likely to herald considerable change for the status of the College. As you will know from the lead article, the College is currently poised to convert to Academy status. This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for us all. However, please be assured that this development is very clearly with the intention of further improving what we do and not in any way diminishing the core values and principles of the College.

As always this has been a busy and challenging year and we are looking forward to some fine achievements from our students in their final examinations. Overall, there has been a tremendous effort on the part of students and staff and I hope that all of the students achieve the success that they deserve. I would like to offer my thanks to both staff and parents for their support of the students.

A number of staff are leaving at the end of the Academic year and I would like to convey our sincere

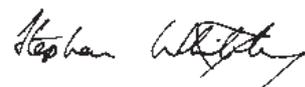
thanks to those colleagues for their hard work and dedication whilst at the College. They include Kelly Berry (Art and Design), David Neville (Design Technology), Christopher Wright (Design Technology, left at Easter), Andrew Hopper (English), Simon Pearce (Modern Foreign Languages), Lauren Doak (Modern Foreign Languages), Sarah Aherne (Performing Arts), Victoria Holden (Physical Education) and Will Goring (Learning Support Assistant). We also wish Susan Bill (Humanities) and Carol McKenzie (ICT) well, as they begin maternity leave at the beginning of the new academic year.

With the staff changes we have taken the opportunity to further refine the curriculum and therefore change the designation of some appointments. We are delighted to have recruited successfully for the new academic year and welcome to the College: Carole Noble (English, joined at Easter), Steven Owen (Design Technology), Gemma Rowland (Physical Education), Laura Fitchett

(Science), Richard Holroyd (Science), Alex Wrampling (Performing Arts), Jennifer Nunn (Performing Arts), Jonathan Calow (Modern Foreign Language) and Matthew Pickard (Humanities). As of mid-June two appointments remain to be made, however, we expect to begin the academic year with a full complement of staff.

For those students who are leaving the College this year we wish them every success and sincerely hope that they will maintain their contact with the College in the years to come.

Please accept my good wishes for an enjoyable summer and my sincere thanks for your continued support throughout the academic year.



Stephen Whiteley  
Principal

## An Apology

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise to Georgina Donohue, Year 9, whose article on the Devised Work competition in the Spring 2006 edition of Newslink was wrongly credited to Georgina Hadfield. We

regret any disappointment that this may have caused and we will endeavour to accurately report students' names in future issues.

G Davies

# Cabaret Evening 2006

On Friday 28 April, a Cabaret Night was held at Landau Forte College to raise funds for a group of students hoping to go on a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to the beautiful country of Malaysia. The expedition will take place in July 2007 and will involve the students being away from home for four weeks carrying out a variety of tasks. The overall cost of the journey is £3000 per student, therefore various fundraising events are required. The Cabaret Night, which showcased some of the many talented students we have at the College, was just one of these events.



*Element 104 rocking the Cabaret Evening*

The night got off to a brilliant start thanks to The Teachers (Mr Davies and Mr Dobson) who put the audience in the mood for what was

to come. The acts that followed came from a variety of performers. There was break-dancing from Tim Shieff and George Lawrence - the highly talented pair shocking the audience with their amazing combination of acrobatics and dance. There was solo singing from the likes of Kimberly Hanrahan and Lewis Church and there were some group acts such as Blaine Molloy and Alex Archer, Cheer Spirit and the Year 10 band Element 104. These and all the other performers were extremely well-received and contributed towards a truly great evening.

After the interval, there was a hilarious game show inspired by the TV shows hosted by Bruce Forsyth, including having a compulsory cuddly toy! Audience participation was expected and the host, Victoria Szwec, did a fantastic job at bringing everybody together.



*Lewis Church performing an acoustic set*

At the end of the night, the audience were then given voting slips to vote for their favourite act. This led to a very close finish, but beating the opposition by one point, Lucas Brookes stole the night with his amazing vocal skills and beat boxing.

Overall the night was a great success and the team succeeded in raising £600 for their much-needed funds.

**Emma Burton and Yasmin O'Hagan, Year 10**

# Student Council

Children In Need, Eco-Schools, College Security, Learning and Education, Student Voice, REACH, College Benches, Charity days, Student Council Website...these are all the things that the last academic year's Student Council have worked towards and achieved.



*The Student Council introduced benches to improve the College environment*

We are pleased to have established the Eco-Schools project within the College and created a positive reaction from staff and students concerning ways to cut our energy usage and to recycle more. Special thanks must go to this project's team leader Nikki Gray and Geography tutor Mrs Bill for their support and hard work.

Our Children in Need day this academic year managed to raise the most money to date due to extending the time given to the actual selling of merchandise, street collecting and, of course, the generosity of students, staff and parents.

The other major achievement of the year has been with the Student Voice, where students have worked tirelessly to improve the ways that students can communicate with the Student Council because, at the end of the

day, the main point of the Student Council is to let staff know what students are thinking. This has been achieved by the use of a website, regular meetings, display boards, workshops and many other new means of communication. Special thanks must go to our four Divisional Leaders for their attendance and effective chairing of meetings: Suzie Cunningham, Nikki Gray, Vicki Marshall and Lucy Whiteley.

The team of people that has worked towards all of these achievements were integral to their success and their input was hugely appreciated. There are a number of people that I must thank for their support and efforts over the past year.

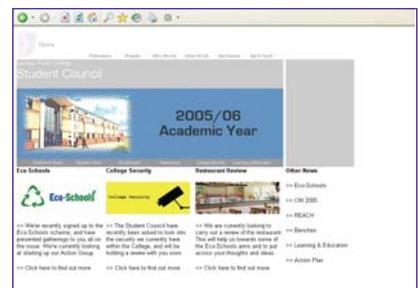
Firstly, the students of Landau Forte College for their ideas, thoughts and inspirations over the past year – without whom we wouldn't have been kept so busy. I hope you continue to be imaginative and productive with your ideas for the next year's Student



*Student Councillors: Matthew Hughes, Dejinder Patara, Kylie Norman and Steven Kew*

Council.

Secondly, the staff for the way that they've been supportive of our goals over this year and helped us to achieve them, in particular the



*The new Student Council website*

College's Executive Team for their regular meetings and consultations, meaning we can implement real changes for the students.

Thirdly, the support of all the administration staff in the College for their use of office space, paper, pens, folders, and not getting annoyed by constant emails and requests for help!

Finally, I'd like to give a huge personal thanks to my Vice-Chairpersons: Matt Hughes, Kylie Norman and Del Patara. They've been a great help from kicking off the new incentive scheme, to collecting money on charity days. Thanks guys – we couldn't have achieved any of it without you and I certainly wouldn't have kept sane.

**Steven Kew, Year 13 - Chairman of Student Council**

## Charity Walk and Clay Pigeon Shoot for the Poppy Appeal

When a small group of clay target shooters sat comparing the fitness levels of soldiers of the Napoleonic Wars to that of the general public of today, little did we know what a 'genie's bottle' we would open. The discussion turned into a challenge and The Peninsular Walk was born. Could everyday people of the twenty-first century emulate the soldiers of the nineteenth by walking 40 miles, carrying a full pack and then being ready (and able) to shoot accurately?

On day one, 15 walkers, 1 dog and 11 support staff (including St John Ambulance) met at the Cat and Fiddle near Buxton at 6.45am. The mist added to our apprehension with visibility down to 100 metres but this lifted relatively quickly revealing a fine day. The walk began at 7am and our cross country route took us over Axe Edge Moor to Crowdecote, passing the Dragon's Back to Hartington and ending in Ilam for the overnight camp. When we had completed 28 miles a most welcome

vegetable stew awaited us, with St John's Ambulance staff tending to blisters and strains. Cleaning mud off kit completed our evening whilst the normal residents of our makeshift campsite were also making their presence felt. They had recently lambed and were obviously bonding with their offspring – the sound of bleating was non-stop through the night.



*Small group well on their way – 7.30am on Axe Edge Moor near Buxton*

Day two began with a 5am call to decamp and have breakfast, ready



*Only half way – will I make it?*

to start at 6.30am. We were soon on our way to Doveridge for the final 12 miles before the shoot, wending our way down Milldale and Dovedale to Rocester and finally to Doveridge Shooting Ground (where, incidentally, trials for the Beijing Olympics were taking place). To complete the challenge a corner of a wood was set aside where, immediately after crossing the finishing line, clay targets were released in all directions with the aim being to hit as many as possible in a given time – an interesting experience after walking 40 miles!

We really enjoyed the experience and we hope to raise over £2000 for the Poppy Appeal.

**B Collins**



*Group photo of the fundraisers*

## Eye Opening Experience

Hi there,

My name is Christine Williamson. I have just recently become the new Parent Governor for Landau Forte College.

I chose to undertake this task mainly for one very good reason: I have been so impressed with the Education that my daughter Hailey has received during her 5 years at the College, I felt I had to give something back, in way of a thank you.

I, like so many parents, am completely unaware of the role the Governors take to manage situations that arise during the College terms. When I attended my first meeting on 3rd May 2006, I was totally blown away with the level of commitment and dedication given by all the members of the board. I can tell you

there is no hidden agenda; these people, from all walks of life, are totally committed to every student at the College, striving to give their best in every area of Education.

The time and concentration given for the best level of Education is always top priority. Whatever the problem thrown at the board, their main thought in solving it is always "What is best for all of the students?", which is very commendable.

A lot of time is taken to travel to various meetings to make sure the very best equipment, hiring of the best tutors for their particular subject and securing the finances to pay for it all takes place. Very often, more time is spent on travelling and meetings than I am sure the Governors would like but it is no trouble for these people, as they always have the interests of the

children at heart.

Well, I did not intend to write a great composition regarding the Governors and the Principal and all the other staff, which contribute to a very successful and hi-tech College, but I thought their praises needed to be sung, and the best way I could find to do this was to write a piece for Newslink.

To sum up, we as parents should be grateful and always give our support to the people who make this a first class teaching facility.

Hoping I can always do my best as Parent Governor for the next few years,

Yours sincerely,

**Christine Williamson**  
Parent Governor

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## Year 7 Zoo Project

This year's winner of the Year 7 Best Animal Case Study Award is Lydia Wormsley for her excellent project on koalas. Each student in Year 7 produces a report on an animal of their choice which is linked to their Science visit in April to Twycross Zoo. Well done, Lydia!

A Delbridge



*Lydia Wormsley: winner of the Zoo Project competition*

## Year 11 Get Their Teeth into Veggie Foods



*Mmmmmm...strawberry cheesecake!!!*

On the 27th and 28th of April, Tricia Howlett came from the Vegetarian Society to talk to the Year 11 Food Technology students. The idea was to educate the students about the vegetarian diet and the day turned out to be very enjoyable. Tricia demonstrated three dishes. Tofu tikka skewers – a spicy Indian dish , paella - a rice dish and strawberry cheesecake - a sweet dessert. Some students were unsure about trying the dishes but everybody had some and many were surprised about how tasty they were. The visits were a huge success and we extend a huge thanks to Tricia.

Rebecca Wilson, Year 10



*Year 11 making vegetarian food*

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## Get Recycling!!!

Each day at Landau Forte College we throw out twelve bins of rubbish from our Food Technology room alone. We decided this was a major problem and that something needed to be done, especially in light of Landau Forte's mission to become an Eco School.

A group of students in Year Eleven decided that recycling bins would help reduce the amount of waste. They discussed the idea with their food

technology tutors and now, thanks to



*Year 11 students display their recycling skills*

their good idea, we have recycling bins for plastic, glass, tin and paper in our food room.

The bins have already been a great success; all the students have been using them and the amount of rubbish that we dispose of daily has been hugely reduced.

Katie Goy, Year 10

# Work Experience in Spain

My work placement in Spain was one of the best experiences of my life. Being a languages student I was able to go on a work placement abroad. I had the opportunity to go to either Spain or Germany for my



work placement as I study both the languages. To make a decision I thought about the weather and decided Spain was the better option. It's a great experience just travelling to the placement; travelling alone without any adult supervision was exciting. I went with my Spanish class and we made it to our placements without any problems. Well, without a lot of problems anyway.

The work we did was incredible; working with Spanish children was something I will never forget. The standard of their English was awesome and I actually had trouble

with some of the questions that they had to do. We stayed with a student's family and in the house was where I really got a chance to improve my Spanish. I also had a chance to try some of the local foods and absorb the culture.

Tom Philpott, Year 12

If nothing else, it is worth visiting Granada just for the fantastic weather. The highlight of my stay was getting a chance to view the Alhambra, the gigantic palace of Granada and the main tourist attraction. A translation of the original Moorish name gives you "red" or "crimson castle", and the building dates back to the ninth



century. You'll be amazed by the sheer size of the palace and the intricacies of the architecture. I enjoyed views of the Alhambra

staying in a neighbouring house, not far from the palace itself.

As well as the delightful vista of the palace, my breath was taken away by the view of the rest of Granada. In every direction there are mountains and countryside. Although you stand in the middle of a city, it is a wonderful feeling to know that the countryside is only a half an hour drive away if you need a change of scenery. The idea of waking up to gorgeous weather and scenery makes getting out of bed in the morning in Granada a pleasure.

Another pleasure is the food. Meals are always a treat because of the variety of tastes the city caters for. Traditional Spanish food is always available for the tourist who wants to experience every aspect of Spanish living. But it was a comfort knowing that if you missed the tastes of home, you could go down the road and be sure to find a takeaway from England.

Despite the many attractions of Granada, it hasn't been destroyed by tourism, which means an evening out makes you feel like you are in proper Spain (as opposed to the popular costas). It is lovely to go to Granada just to appreciate the many contrasts it has to offer.

Caroline Jones, Year 12

## French Work Placement

As a Year 12 student studying a Modern Foreign Language, I was presented with the opportunity to spend my two week work placement in the home to my chosen language, France. This not only gave me the chance to utilise the spoken language skills I had learned by applying them to a work-based environment, but it was also an opportunity to gain an insight into the French culture and way of life.

Unlike the Spanish and German students, we were not hosted by a French family and instead we stayed independently in a local hotel within comfortable walking distance of the



*Natalie Dyer, Chantelle Archer and Ashley Bottrill in France*

town centre of Soissons. However, throughout our stay, we had friendly guidance and support from the people responsible for us during our work experience, despite them being

complete strangers to begin with.

The people of Soissons were keen to demonstrate the historical importance of their town, thereby allowing us to make sense of the community. The cultural, historical and traditional experience that we encountered is perhaps what was most refreshing about our time in France.

In the light of my own experience, I strongly believe that, with such opportunities open to language students, the study of a language at A-level is certainly both worthwhile and rewarding.

*Natalie Dyer, Year 12*

## Work Placement in Germany

Each year, all Year 12 students are given the opportunity to undertake a two-week work placement at a company of their choice, with language students being offered the chance of working abroad. This year in February a group of nine AS Level German students travelled to the town of Osnabrück in northern Germany to undertake their placements. They carried out a variety of different tasks at places including the twinning office, school, theatre, fitness centre and kindergarten.



*Victoria Szwec in Osnabrück*

I began my placement at the 'Städtepartnerschaftsbüro' (twinning office) with no clear or concise idea of what would be required of me, but as the time went on, I was given many varied tasks, which have therefore made the job particularly enjoyable. These tasks varied from: attending meetings about the May Week Festival, to writing letters, and researching the theatre scenes in both twin cities to see if there is potential to form any new twinning links and also making hotel bookings for visitors coming from Derby.

We were all very fortunate to have been placed in work environments where everyone was very friendly and understanding; this was also very true of our host families who made us feel really welcome in both their homes and their city. Foreign work placements are not only beneficial for

language learning but they also teach you about different cultures promoting a more global attitude. This opportunity has made us develop our interaction skills with people from other nations. Foreign exchanges do not only have immediate benefits, but also those which are more long-term, such as enhancing an individual's career prospects, by having such an indispensable skill in the global world.

We would like to thank everyone that has been involved in organising this exchange, Miss Watson and Frau Sander and to everyone who we have come across during our stay in Osnabrück, in particular everybody at our work placements and our host families.

*Victoria Szwec, Year 12*

## Our Chinese Languages Assistant

For the third year, Landau Forte College has been very pleased to welcome a teacher from China who has been working with our students and with the local community to teach us Mandarin Chinese as well as about China. Miss Wang normally teaches English to students in our partner school in Shanghai and she has really enjoyed her time in Derby. It was the first time she has ever been to England and she has also been able to travel all around the UK and explore some European countries as well.

Some students in Year Nine have been learning Chinese all this year and their curriculum has included learning to count, finding out about Chinese festivals and foods and experiencing some of the culture of

another country. They have found the experience really positive.

We send out best wishes back to China with Miss Wang and hope we shall meet her again one day. Miss Wang says:

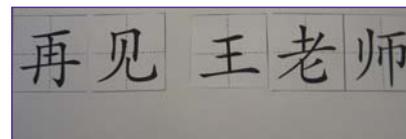
Time flies so fast! Incredibly, I have been living and teaching in this



Miss Wang, our Chinese languages assistant

country for nearly a year. I have enjoyed teaching Mandarin Chinese as well as introducing Chinese culture to the College and most students have been interested in the Chinese language and what has been happening in China. As a teacher, I try to adjust my teaching methodology to make learning easy and interesting. Being a languages assistant at Landau Forte College has been an unforgettable experience that I'll treasure forever.

I Wang



Good-bye to Teacher Wang

## The Time Tunnel

On Thursday 23rd March Year 7 and Year 9 students were invited to watch two plays to help them with their studies in History this year. Year 7 students began the day watching a play all about medieval English life and many of the students were very impressed by what they saw. A group of actors provided all the scenery and costumes, putting on a play for one and a half hours, taking the students 'through time' as time travellers. I asked Ben Burton in Year 7 to give us his views:



Bringing History to life with the Bayeux Tapestry

I really liked the performance; it covered all of what we had learnt so far in Year 7 History. They did lots of little scenes and performances about medieval life that were all linked together by a time traveller. They went through topics that we had covered like the Bayeux Tapestry and the murder of Thomas Becket! I enjoyed the plays a lot. One of the reasons that I thought the plays were great was because it helped more students to understand more about medieval English life rather than getting it just out of textbooks.

Year 9 students watched a play about World War One called 'Doomed Youth'. This play aimed to help the Year 9 students understand key factors to do with the Great War – conscription, the role of women and trench warfare. Year 9 student Anthony Kendrick offered me his



Doomed Youth: The Time Tunnel actors experience World War One opinions of the day:

I really liked the Year 9 Time Tunnel event – the plays were incredible, given the short time the actors have to rehearse them. The performance was very insightful and taught us a lot about things such as the role of women in the war as well as trench life. I really hope that other years get to see this event because it was really good fun and I would definitely watch them again if I had the chance!

J Dade

## Frankenstein – The Monster's Monologue

During Term 5, Year 7 English students have been studying Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. Most people consider Frankenstein's Monster to be a hateful character but our reading has revealed that he is also a character to be pitied. Here are some Monster Monologues, exploring the Monster's thoughts and feelings...

I am sad, angry and alone. All around me I see angry faces looking at me. I feel confused but I do not understand because people see me and throw things at me. Why?

Even when I try to help they look, scream and I have to run. Guns shoot at me! They scare me! They hurt me! Why?

When I tried to make friends I was treated without respect. I helped a young girl, showing her kindness...but her brother shot me.

Since that time, I have started to feel very alone, scared, friendless and unwanted. Everywhere I go people scream and shout for help. So, I have decided to take revenge...

Alanah Miles, Year 7

...When I talked to Frankenstein he said that he would make a bride for me to stop me from killing others. It made me a little happier but I was still miserable. All I wanted was to be loved and cared for.

Instead, I'm hated...I'm scared and afraid of people who don't like me and who get their muskets and shoot me all the time. For once, I would like people to like me and love me but no, they hate me instead.

...Can't they just like me for how I am, not the way I look? I feel unwanted because Frankenstein doesn't like me so I have had to eat and live on the streets. He was the one who invented me...He just left me to starve and steal from shops for food and clothes...If everyone liked me then I wouldn't have been like this in the first place...

Rachel Jacobs, Year 7

### Junior Maths Challenge

Among the children in a certain family, each child has at least one brother and at least one sister. What is the smallest possible number of children in the family?

- a) 2
- b) 3
- c) 4
- d) 5
- e) 6

Answer on Page 19

## Mousetrap Racer Challenge 2006

On 22nd March, five Year 9 students – Chris Arran, Matthew Arran, Larissa Bates, Jenny Lin and Adam Horvath took part in the annual national Inter-CTC Science and Technology Challenge held at ADT Technology College, London. This team was going to defend the title won by Landau Forte students last year.

We were selected for our skills and abilities in both Science and Technology. Our main challenge was to build a mouse-trap powered race car to perform in two different challenges: speed and distance. Our learning tutors organised a preparation day on the Monday beforehand to help us to organise some ideas and eventually a final design. Once this had been achieved we knew we would be ready to compete on the day.



*The winners of the Inter-CTC challenge*

We arrived at Derby train station at 6:20am to catch the 6:38am train to St. Pancras station. From here we caught several tube trains to our destination. Upon arrival, all participating teams were gathered in the sports hall to receive the introduction. Two participants from each team were to take part in a separate Pro-Desktop challenge while the rest proceeded to build the car.

After lunch, the races began! The cars were judged on speed, distance, quality and design. We came second in distance and won the speed, quality and design categories. The results were also revealed for the Pro-Desktop challenge where we were the clear winners! The only thing that was left to do was the team science quiz, which was in three stages. All questions varied in difficulty and topic. The overall results revealed: we had won 6 rounds out of 7 and our points total exceeded the other teams by far.

A small ceremony soon followed and each of us were awarded a gold medal, a certificate and a scientific calculator. We would like to thank Mr Neville and Mrs Brocklebank for accompanying us to London, and Mrs Parrish for organising the event.

*Larissa Bates and Jenny Lin, Year 9*

## Year 7 Tropical Inc Visit

On April 11th 2006 two people and a lot of animals arrived at our College in the morning. They were from Tropical Inc and they specialise in rescuing unusual wild animals that other people can't look after and bringing them to schools to teach people about them and where they come from.

They had a Macaw that could speak but we didn't hear him and also a green winged parrot called Charlie who flew all



around the room. There was a six foot python that was still a baby and wasn't fully grown. I got to hold its stomach along with five other people.

Some of the other animals that we saw were a pigmy albino hedgehog and a baby meerkat that had to be



rescued because its mother didn't want it. We also saw a bad tempered skunk that bit Mrs Parrish but fortunately didn't spray its smell everywhere.

I thoroughly enjoyed them coming to visit and I am sure the other Year Sevens did too.

*Morgan Richmond, Year 7*

## BTEC Engineering at Derby University

On the 11th May the Year 12 BTEC engineering team went to the BTEC First National Engineering Course



*Using the Hardners machine*

at Derby University on Pybus Street. From 9:30am until 12:30pm they carried out three experiments on material testing with the kind help of Mr Charlie Kelly, an engineering specialist.

There were two tests to observe: the Hardners test and the Tensile test. The Tensile test shows how much force can be applied to a specimen and its stretched extension. The Hardners test uses the Vickers Hardners machine to indent a diamond shape into the material; the larger the indentation the softer the material. These various experiments were needed to complete the BTEC course and to pass. The team enjoyed the course thoroughly and found it very useful.

Finally we would like to say a large Thank you to Mr Kelly for his time and effort with helping the team.

Hannah Nichols-Green, Year 9



*The Tensile Test in action*

## Wear it Pink, Wear it Blue Day

For one day only, Landau Forte College turned into a sea of pink and blue in aid of the Wear It Pink, Wear It Blue day to support breast and testicular cancer research charities. The idea of the day was for each student to wear a pink or blue garment accompanying the rest of their clothing, and to donate a pound to the fund, which was given directly to our chosen charities.

Each student delighted in the rare chance to come to school in their own casual clothes and revelled in being able to display a sense of their own individuality. There was a selection of fairies and an assortment of people with their own original and unique tastes.

Although the day consisted of the same seven sessions as usual, it was most definitely a

change from the norm with an exciting and youthful feel to the proceedings. All in all we managed to raise over £1600 pounds, so a huge thanks must go to everyone who contributed.

Sophie Beer, Year 10



## Musical Performer and Dramatic Monologue

A year ago today I sat down to write the Newslink article for the Dramatic Monologue Competition and Musical Performer of the Year 2005. In doing so I was able to take time out to think about all of the excellent performances we see on these special occasions. We saw Dancers, Honk, Buzz, Sticky Keys, the Guitar Group and individual music and drama performances. The commitment and standard was excellent and when I realised that one fifth of the College community actually took part I was stunned and very pleased. However...was it possible to achieve this again?

As the Dramatic Monologue and Musical Performer of the Year competitions drew closer students from every year were busy preparing for their performances. As auditions took place in the fortnight leading up to the competitions, it was clear that the standard was very high, and some difficult decisions had to be made at an early stage. Not only did we have the same high levels of dedication as last year – but now we had even more students to make the performances bigger, louder and more memorable than ever before.

When the Box Office opened, performers began to realise the reality of the event. Every evening the College was treated to various groups and individuals practicing. Rehearsals shook the College as everyone was getting ready for a night never to be forgotten. Just listening and watching these rehearsals lifted the mood of everyone who walked by, and we were frequently surprised as to how many students would come along to offer support and guidance. There was a real sense of fun and encouragement, which is so precious for a successful College community.

Finally the evening was upon us, and the mood of the students in the Performing Arts area quickly changed. There was a buzz of

anticipation and excitement as the day began to feel more special with each minute that passed. Strange noises could be heard from normally 'quiet' parts of the College as instruments were tuned and physical and vocal warm ups took place. As the students gathered for one last blast there was definitely an air of professionalism about each of them. We knew we were in for a great night.

The competition began with the Junior competitors. It would be unfair to mention just some of the performances that took place, but anyone who was there can tell you that each one of them was fantastic. And in the interval, I am proud to say, many people were already congratulating the students on their achievements. The Seniors were immediately after the interval, following up with more brilliant music and drama performances. Clearly the judges were having a tough time choosing! Finally, three bands took to the stage to compete for Band of the Year, each with their own style and personality which ended the competition with a bang.

In addition to the competitors, many other students also got involved. Buzz, Honk, Sticky Keys and the Strumming Pluckers entertained the audience. And as if this wasn't enough, the Dancers performed another fantastic piece of contemporary dance.

A huge thanks to the judges. Nick Dobson judged the Dramatic Monologue Competitions and Kevin Holdgate judged Musical Performer of the Year.

Congratulations and thank you to all those involved.

S Aherne



*Fantastic performances from all involved*



*Nick Ward – Junior Musical Performer of the Year and Adam Horvath – Junior Dramatic Monologue Winner*



*Lewis Church – Senior Dramatic Monologue Winner*



*Well done to all the competitors on your great performances!*



*James Milwain – Senior Musical Performer of the Year*

## Josefina

Here is the latest letter from our sponsored child Josefina. We sent a Christmas card to Josefina with a photo of some of our students sending their greetings. Josefina is one of the Quechua people from the mountains of Bolivia. Life is hard and there are not many opportunities. Josefina is now 16 years of age. For this picture Josefina put on her best skirt and shoes which are exactly the same ones she wore on a previous picture when she was 14! However, our sponsorship helps a little towards bringing clean water, medical care and education to Josefina's village.

The sponsorship of £220 every year is raised through concerts and shows at Landau Forte College. If you wish to make an extra contribution towards the project, please contact Mr Coffey. To find out more about Bolivia and World Vision visit [www.worldvision.org.uk](http://www.worldvision.org.uk)

A Coffey



*A recent photo of Josefina*

## Get Up and Go!!

That's the title of our Year 10 Performing Arts students' production for their GCSE exam at the end of May. Twenty three Year 10 students completed their Single Award GCSE Performing Arts this term and will now go on to the Double Award during Year 11. The show was in the style of 'Hi 5', which you can see on Channel 5 every morning, and demanded singing, playing instruments, dancing and acting from the candidates. The Brief on the

question paper given to the students six weeks ago was to produce a show that encouraged young children to get active. Judging by the reaction of the examiners and our Year 7 students, who were the audience, 'Get Up and Go' definitely got them going!

A Coffey



*It's time to Get Up and Go!!*

## Our Fifth Visit to the Aosta Valley with Interski

During December and January, everyone had been practising their skills at Swadlincote Ski and Snowboard Centre in preparation for this year's visit.

In the second week of our March holiday, Mrs Holland, Miss Aherne, Mr Rowe, Mr Hopper and thirty one students set off for Italy. The weather reports were excellent with heavy snow forecast just before our arrival. The day before our departure the Interski Director informed me that it was 'dumping it', so I was really looking forward to fantastic conditions this year; we were not disappointed!



*Fun in the snow at the Aosta Valley*

Our trusty drivers safely drove us through the night and we breakfasted in France early on Sunday morning! Everyone had their first plod through the snow to get to their croissants, as it had been snowing heavily during our journey through France. Despite the weather conditions we arrived at

lunchtime and everyone was fitted out with their equipment, in readiness for our first day on the slopes on Monday. We were more than ready to get to the 'pink palace' aka the Mont Fleury Hotel where we had lunch, unpacked and relaxed.

The whole group were fantastic this year and were brilliant at getting up every day for their early breakfast and then being fully prepared with ski passes, suntan lotion, helmets, goggles, glasses and gloves all to hand. Good personal organisation is the key to an enjoyable and safe day on the slopes and Group Pila 2006 had it taped!

Our instructors as per usual were of a high standard and at the Presentation Evening, everyone received their certificates. Within each group one student was nominated by their instructor for making the 'Most Progress' and they each received a 'highly prized T-shirt'.

We had an excellent après-ski programme which included swimming, bowling, a disco and our pizza evening. During the course of the week, our Course Co-ordinator Liam (ski dare devil extraordinaire), Miss Aherne and Mr Hopper snapped happily away with their digital cameras. Each student received a disc of the Interski photos on their return and you can check out the additional photos on the College Intranet/Ski & Snowboard Visit 2006.

Our final day dawned and as usual we were exceedingly reluctant to

take our skis and snowboards off, as the snow conditions were the best ever this year! All of us counted ourselves very lucky that with global



*Conditions were very slippery that day!*

warming looming we were able to enjoy near perfect conditions this year and I certainly wished for another week. However, Mr Whiteley might have missed us come Monday morning! Planning for next year's visit to Aosta is fully underway and we are hoping for fantastic conditions in March 2007.

**A Holland**

## Sporting Achievements and Results

### Netball

Under 14 and Under 16 girls' teams both entered into the Derby City Netball Leagues and continue to improve on their performance each year. Both teams finished mid-table among some very strong opposition.

This year's CTC tournament held at Telford was unfortunately postponed but will be held in September for the current Year 8 and Year 9 Girls.

### Girls' Football

Both the Under 14 and Under 16 girls' 5-a-side teams played brilliantly despite finishing near bottom of the league. There were some outstanding performances, in defence Katie Higgins, Year 11 and all round Jayde Wright, Year 9.

The JJB 5-a-side Tournaments for Under 12 and Under 13s were played with a fantastic spirit and the girls even organised their own friendly games after being knocked out after the group stages.

### Boys' Football

The Year 7 boys' team made a solid start within their first season, finishing mid-table.

The Year 8 boys' team finished as champions! Unbeaten in 7 games, with a final record of: played 7, won 6, drawn 1, goals for 42, goals against 8. The boys were extremely unlucky to be beaten on penalties in

the Cup Quarter Final.

The Year 9 boys endured a difficult season, finishing with a final record of: played 7, won 1, drawn 1, lost 5, goals for 12, goals against 25. A good cup run was ended by an excellent West Park side, despite a battling performance.

The Year 10 boys' team showed glimpses of their talent, winning their first two matches but suffered with inconsistency throughout the season, finishing with a final record of: played 5, won 2, drawn 1, lost 2. An appearance in the English Schools National Cup was a great experience for the team but unfortunately they suffered defeat against an excellent St Monica's side from Manchester.

The Year 11 boys' team enjoyed another successful year making it to the semi-final in the cup and third position in the league.

### Athletics

Yr 7 Mini-athalon

### Derbyshire Schools Athletics Championships

The Derbyshire Schools Track and Field Championships held at Moorways on Saturday 10 June saw many athletes including our very own Clare O'Reilly, Year 12, Megan Mellor, Year 11 and Sam Watson, Year 10 competing to gain a place in the Derbyshire County Schools Team for the annual Midlands Inter-

Counties match at Corby. Clare O'Reilly won the Gold Medal in the Senior Girls Triple Jump, setting a new championship best performance for the second year running and easily achieving the qualifying distance for the National Final being held in Gateshead on 7th and 8th of July.

### Year 7 and 8 Boys kick off the Rugby Tournament Season

Our Year 7 boys entered the Derbyshire Emerging Schools Festival, which was held at Matlock RFC in February. It was a very tough and competitive day in which our students did the College proud. The team eventually finished up in third position. A big thanks to our Year 7 coach, Mr Rudkin who used his expert knowledge coaching the boys throughout the day!!



## CSLA 'Race for Life'

by Hailey Williamson, Year 12

At the start of Year 12, twelve students took up the opportunity to participate in CSLA (Community Sports Leadership Award), which enabled us to learn new skills and teaching abilities to plan and guide younger children in sporting activities. We were also required to do ten hours of voluntary service at a sporting event. Nine of us decided to take up a fantastic opportunity and take part in the Cancer Research Race for Life at Darley Park.

As the day went on, we as a team got to know each other extremely well and all became good friends. It was really fantastic to see people running for a truly magnificent cause, as each and everyone of us has encountered somebody close to them who has had cancer or lost the battle against such a horrific illness, so it was a privilege to help in such a worthy cause. All in all the day went extremely well. There was free food and drink, not forgetting the numerous Muller yoghurts we ate!!

The sun shone for most of the day and when the rain did come it certainly didn't dampen our spirits. I will definitely volunteer next year for the Race for Life and on behalf of all the CSLA team we would like to thank Mr Harvey for all his hard work and effort that kept this course fun and exciting. I would definitely recommend doing CSLA, as you learn so many new skills and gain great new friendships.

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## Junior Sports Leader Award

The Junior Sports Leader Award is a Level 1 Leadership Award designed to give people over the age of fourteen skills in leading groups in sporting and recreational activity.

The JSLA is an ideal first step towards gaining National Governing Body coaching qualifications and promotes the work of volunteers in British sport.

The award is divided into seven units of work. Each candidate must complete all seven units including the Demonstration of Leadership Skills where candidates must demonstrate their ability to lead

sporting activities for a minimum of one hour.

The seven units are:

- Organisational Skills
- Communication Skills
- Health and Fitness
- Fair Play in Sport
- The Role of the Umpire
- Opportunities in Sport and Recreation
- Demonstration of Leadership Skills

Twenty eight Year 11 students completed the Level 1 Award this

year, demonstrating their leadership skills in extension sessions and by officiating the Landau versus Forte competitions.

Congratulations to all who were a credit to the College and themselves.



## Futsal – Brazilian Soccer Arrives at LFC!



Our Year 7 and 9 students were involved in a Futsal coaching workshop, which was taken by the Derbyshire FA. Futsal is a fairly new game in the UK, which originated from Brazil. The game uses a low compression football and it aims to develop your techniques and skills.



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## Kick Boxing

For the first time at the College, the Physical Education Core Programme included Kick Boxing for Year 11 students. Students received expert tuition during workshops taken by a local kick boxing agency. More workshops are planned for future Yr 11 sessions!

M Rowe



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## Junior Maths Challenge

Answer to Junior Maths Challenge:

c) 4

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