

# NewsLink



Landau Forte College Newsletter Spring 2009



## Outstanding!

Students, staff and parents were delighted in October last year when Landau Forte College was awarded an Outstanding Grade from Ofsted following a rigorous two day inspection by a team of Her Majesty's Inspectors.

The Ofsted Inspection focused on a number of areas in College, including achievement, teaching and learning,

leadership and management, and care and support of students, remarking in the report: "Excellent care, guidance and support contribute to students' outstanding personal development and well-being".

Overall, Landau Forte received 36 Grade one judgements from 43 areas; a fantastic achievement for everyone who is involved with the College. The Inspectors commented that: "Landau Forte College is a high performing

academy. A culture of equality and opportunity permeates it and ensures that students make outstanding progress in both their academic and personal development. The curriculum is broad and innovative."

Of course, the excellent Ofsted report, while allowing us to reflect on our achievements, has inspired us to aim even higher and focus on continuing to improve the opportunities the College provides to all our students.



**Inside:** More details of the Ofsted Report on page 2.



# The Principal's Message

## Congratulations, well done and many thanks!

I must congratulate and thank everyone associated with the College for their unstinting efforts and support over an extended period of time, which led to the Outstanding Judgement in the Ofsted Inspection in 2008. Although the inspection itself was condensed into a short period of time, evidence from an extended period was scrutinised by the team of HMI before reaching their judgements. The type of report we received could only have been achieved after many years of dedication by a very large number of people: students, staff, parents, carers, governors, friends and supporters of the College. It was seven years since our previous inspection and whilst we felt in that time we had improved in many aspects of our work, it was reassuring when a team of four of Her Majesty's Inspectors gave us the recognition we received.

The Ofsted Report both acknowledged and rewarded whilst providing a powerful spring board from which to move forward. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels for one moment. We must set ourselves exacting standards, work together with energy and enthusiasm and redouble our efforts to ensure the highest quality education possible for our students.

It is my firm view that the strength of relationships between students, staff, parents and carers is undoubtedly a cornerstone of our past and future success. We must nurture these relationships with everyone playing their part: accepting and fulfilling their responsibilities to the best of their abilities so that we can continue to improve in all that we do.

As always, life remains extremely busy at the College with students and staff together engaged in a wide range of activities both within and beyond the everyday curriculum. I hope you enjoy reading about some of those achievements in this edition of Newslink.

You will be aware, from previous information circulated, of our development of a proposed Academy in Staffordshire. This project is still in the Feasibility phase with consultation taking place. Please be assured no one is taking their eye off the ball at Landau Forte College and we have in place both the capacity and expertise to carry out the continued development of the College and the establishment of the Academy, should it go forward to the Implementation phase.

We are past the mid-point of the academic year and attention is sharply focused on the final weeks leading to the public examinations. Completion of high quality coursework and well structured and focused revision will provide the keys to success and open the door for each student to pursue his or her chosen pathway at Post 16 or Post 18. We wish each of them every success and all that I ask is that everyone involved gives their very best efforts.

Finally, again please accept my heartfelt thanks for your support without which our students could not enjoy the success they achieve.

Stephen Whiteley,  
Principal



# Aiming Higher

The time is once again upon us for our Post-16 students to be planning for university: many students will be waving goodbye to their parents, this autumn, to start a new phase of their life. For many, the decision to apply for university will be an easy one, as other members of their family will have attended and told them what an enjoyable experience it is. However, for some, it will be a difficult choice: unsure whether or not to go to university, with all the anxieties of the unknown, such as a new environment, and money troubles not only for them, but their family as well.

However, there is no need for alarm, as students at the College are well-advised on careers planning and financial management. Furthermore, Landau Forte College offers two special bursaries to help out those who are going to university and ease some of those worries. Firstly, there is the Landau Charitable Foundation Bursary, which is for those students going to St Peter's College, Oxford. This bursary offers you £1000 a year to help you with your finances, to continue your studies at this prestigious institution.

Year	Student	University	Subject	Bursary
1995	Claire Featherstone Janet Hyde Ann Wheeler	Cambridge Oxford Oxford	Mathematics & Teaching (Primary) Biochemistry Chemistry	LB LB
1996	Sarah Landells	Oxford	Mathematics	LB
1998	Louise Tainton	Oxford	Law	LB
1999	Elena Mounsey	Cambridge	Natural Sciences	
2000	Deborah Hawkes Adam White	Cambridge Oxford	Archaeology & Anthropology Physics and Philosophy	LB
2003	Robyn Addison James Burke Amanjot Fagura Rusi Jaspal David Allcock Gemma Avey	Cambridge Cambridge Cambridge Cambridge Oxford Oxford	Natural Sciences Law Law Modern & Medieval Languages Physics Modern Languages	WB LB LB
2008	Adam Bowler Richard Whitehouse Patrick Arran (deferred entry 2009)	Oxford Cambridge Cambridge	Philosophy, Politics & Economics Computer Science Engineering	LB WB

LB: recipient of Landau Foundation Bursary  
WB: recipient of Williams Bursary

There is also a second bursary available, which is the Williams Bursary, from the Williams Bursary Fund. It is overseen by the Board of Governors and it again offers you £1000 a year. This bursary is generally awarded to those who, through personal and family circumstances, are in need of the support offered by the award and are going on to study a technology-based course at one of the top universities in the country. In 2008, this was awarded to 2 students: David Harper, who is currently reading for a Masters in Chemistry at the University of

York, and Patrick Arran, who will be taking up his deferred place to read Engineering at Cambridge University in autumn 2009, after completing a Year in Industry with Rolls Royce.

As you can see, these leading universities are accessible to Landau Forte students, as many have demonstrated, including Adam Bowler from last year's Year 13, who is currently studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics at St Peter's College, Oxford, and is receiving a Landau Foundation Bursary. Adam commented about Oxford: "There is a stereotype that people in Oxford are all 'stuck-up'. This is completely untrue. Everyone here is enthusiastic about their subject, and you will be able to strike up an interesting conversation with anyone you meet. I have been able to keep up the hobbies I came to the university with, and start new ones too, such as rowing. I guess, then, that some stereotypes are true!"

Once he has graduated, Adam has high aspirations to secure a successful career in the financial sector. Another former student, James Burke, who left the

College in 2003 and received the Williams Bursary, has set his sights high. He studied Law at Cambridge, graduating in 2006 with a BA (Hons). He is now training to be a barrister at a leading course provider and is based in London. His next goal is to secure a pupillage at a law firm in the capital, in order to complete his training for this very lucrative career.

So, remember to always do your best; aim for the top and achieve your aspirations. A bursary could reduce some of those financial worries and encourage you to apply to those top institutions which, after all your hard work, you definitely deserve.

They want you, so go to university, and get involved with everything student life has to offer.

Samuel Gregory, Year 12





## Fundraising Fun!

Children in Need day always sees an array of weird and wonderful displays, stalls and costumes and this year was definitely no different. The event took place on the 14th of November and it's always one of the most enjoyable days of the year with everyone taking part, and raising money for charity. The Children in Need Charity aims to positively change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across Britain.

Everyone (as usual) came in non-uniform or in fancy dress. We all donated one pound to the charity so we could gain access to school, then everybody went to their first four lessons before going to Tutor Time where we could set up the stalls ready for everyone to spend their money. As usual there was also a Children in Need Show which showed many different acts by the tutors and students having fun and making everyone laugh. The audience poured in, and the show began!

It ran very smoothly, and went by very quickly. There were some great acts including a girls' cheerleading group, which was interrupted by some staff!

In Derby we raised as a city £784,975 and broke the region's record of £725,000 set last year. Landau Forte contributed by raising about £8000. The stalls included a barbecue, homemade milkshakes, games like suck the jelly, penalty shootout and scientific games, but the school also held raffles, competitions and splat the teacher.

This year's total is going to be hard to beat next year. We're just going to have to be even more generous than usual and enjoy ourselves as much as possible while raising a huge amount of money for charity!

Lauren Collings, Cory Thompson, Charles Mason and Cerian Spencer, Year 9

## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a charity set up to help underprivileged children experience the joy of Christmas. All around the country schools, churches and clubs fill shoe boxes with presents for them. The presents include toys, sweets and stationary, many of which they won't have seen before.

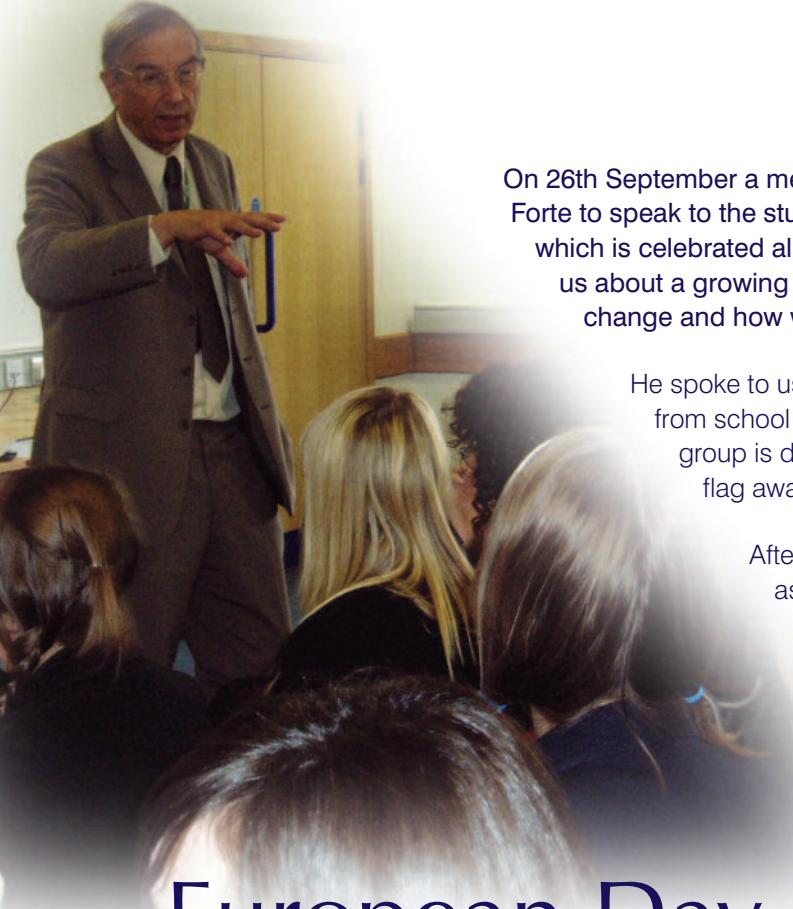
After the boxes have been packed, wrapped and labelled, they are taken to a drop off point where they are checked by volunteers. Then the millions of boxes are sent by plane to many places around the world including Bosnia, Serbia and Hungary. Last year 1.3 million boxes were sent.

We are part of Operation Christmas Child at Landau Forte. It is a good chance to get to know others in the Tutor Base and feel like you are part of helping those who need our support. It is good to know that something that doesn't mean much to you will to someone, somewhere in the world.

This year we filled over 200 boxes. My Tutor Base filled eight in total. We decided as a group how many we would do and who would bring what to fill them. When everyone had brought in their chosen items we chose who would wrap and who would pack. Wrapping and packing the boxes took just over half an hour and then they were sent off with the rest of the boxes to a drop off point where they were checked and sent around the world. We were all very proud that we could help children less fortunate than ourselves.

Ruth Webster, Year 9





On 26th September a member from the European Parliament came to Landau Forte to speak to the students as part of schools European Day of Languages which is celebrated all over the world. Mr Bill Newton-Dunn came in to talk to us about a growing problem for Europe and the rest of the world: climate change and how we can help to stop it.

He spoke to us about how we can help, for example walking to and from school and recycling. This links to the work that the Eco-Schools group is doing: Landau Forte College is trying to achieve the green flag award by being an Eco School.

After Mr Newton-Dunn had spoken to us we were allowed to ask questions about his job, hobbies and family. He told us how his family coped with him travelling, how he became interested in politics and helping the earth. It was an enjoyable day for all of us.

Elliott Banks, Year 9

## European Day of Languages

Mr Newton-Dunn later spoke to Year 13 General Studies students about his career in politics and the European Union, inspiring some of our students who are interested in this career path. Dominic Law discovered:

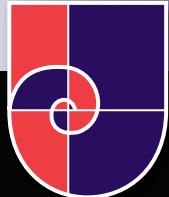
Bill Newton-Dunn was a Conservative Member of European Parliament (MEP) from 1979 to 1994 representing Lincolnshire. He then took a spell out of parliament, and in 1999 was re-elected MEP for the East Midlands. However, in 2000 he moved to the Liberal Democrats because he felt the Conservatives were turning increasingly hostile towards the Europe Union and Britain's proposed active membership.

Mr Newton-Dunn believes that trade and political cohesion across Europe will continue to grow and it is important that the up and coming generation is well equipped in education to work effectively in this developing state. With this in mind, he was very impressed with the modern foreign languages offered and in particular he thought the facilities in place to aid the learning of these languages were excellent.

Overall, Mr Newton-Dunn thought the range of subjects offered at Landau Forte College was very relevant to the developing world and he praised our vertical personal tutorial system.

Dominic Law, Year 13





# Eco-man Says Recycle or Perish!

A few weeks ago, the focus of gathering was the Environment and the Eco-Schools project. Students from Year 13 explained to the staff and students how the Eco-Schools Team is currently working to make the College more eco-friendly. A particular focus for this term is litter and recycling.

There are now new recycling bins in the restaurant, and although this is a seemingly small change, it could have a huge impact on the College's ability to recycle rubbish. As well as bins for plastic bottles, we have now introduced a bin for cardboard, including cereal packets and a can crusher. We would like to thank all the students who are taking the time to sort their rubbish correctly and ask you to keep up the good work.

Another aim for this year is to provide recycling bins for every classroom so that we can improve paper recycling all over College. We also hope to place paper recycling bins by the lockers at the end of the year when lockers are cleared. Think about how much paper you throw away, in the form of old worksheets or forgotten letters, when clearing your locker and how much better it would be for the environment if this rubbish could be recycled.

When it comes to using paper think:

- Do I need to print this out at all?
- Could I print double-sided?
- Could I write on both sides of the sheet?
- Do I really need to make a photocopy?

Currently, we have an Eco-School's notice board under development in B6 and we are in the process of obtaining a notice board and display in the Information Centre. On completion, these will inform students of all future projects and will provide up-to-date information on global environmental activities and the impact we are having on the environment.



Our next major initiative will be to revamp the pond. As the pond lining has a tear in it, the pond needs to be ripped out and started again from scratch. We have worked closely with the science team to come up with a design

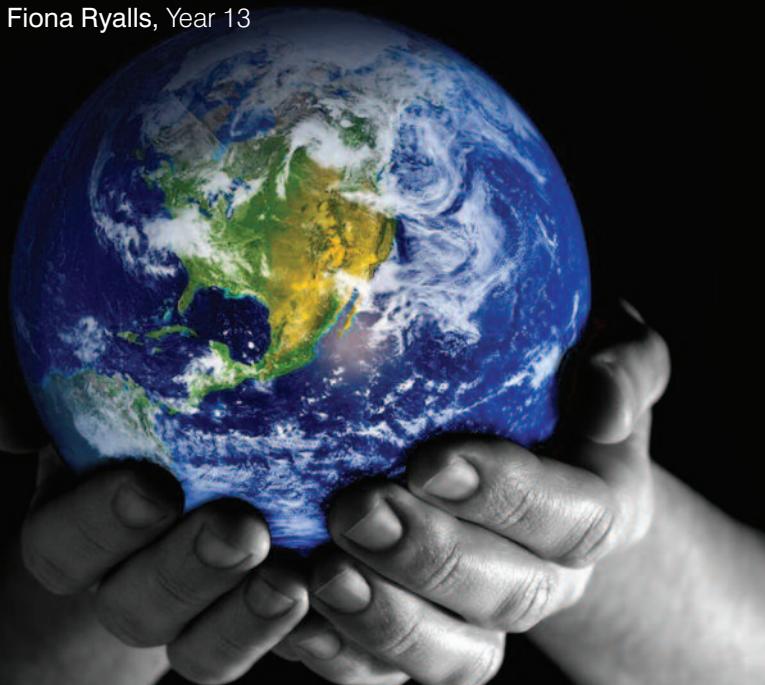


for the pond which will provide a working pond, with a variety of plant and animal life. For example, it is hoped that the pond will provide a regular source of pondweed, which is used in science experiments.

In addition, the Eco-Schools team are planning to organise some events this year that will promote 'helping to save the environment' within the whole College. A future project will be a public transport day. This will encourage those who drive to College to get buses, cycle or walk. This will also promote car sharing for those who cannot use public transport.

If you have any ideas, or want to help improve our environment in College or the environment as a whole, come and speak to any representative of Eco-Schools or e-mail Miss Watson. In the meantime, remember what Eco-man said: get your paper, bottles, boxes and cans in the right bin. "Recycle or perish!"

**Elliot Sharpe, Susie Dundon, Sian Watkins and Fiona Ryalls, Year 13**





# Senior Maths Challenge Success

On the 12th November 2008 four Landau Forte Mathematics students went to Derby University to compete in the UKMT Senior Teams Maths Challenge regional heats. We won the first place prize: a trophy to display on the lower mall and a chance to compete in the national finals on the 3rd February in London.

The team consisted of four Post-16 mathematicians: Sanel Susak, Matthew Ripley, Chris Arran, and Matt Arran. For the next few weeks we met regularly for practice sessions which helped us to develop teamwork as well as better techniques for solving problems. We practised for the three rounds of the competition: a group answer round with ten general questions, a cross-number similar to a cross-word puzzle which had the team split into two halves who were not allowed to communicate, and a final relay round where four questions had to be solved in quick succession.

On the day of the competition we were in high spirits and determined to enjoy the experience regardless of our success, or failure. In the end, we made some mistakes but did well on other parts so before the winner was announced we felt as if our score would be average. The first place winner was finally announced: Landau Forte College! The sheer surprise on our faces was so obvious that another team commented on it whilst kindly congratulating us.

The trophy was handed to us: it was all over; until February that is. Now our team is practising for the national finals and we are determined to represent Landau Forte College, and indeed the whole region of Derbyshire, to the best of our ability.

Sanel Susak, Year 13



## Engineering in Education

My team, comprising five students including myself, embarked on a journey that would teach us a thing or two about Engineering, working with other people and finding out what it's like to live in a room the size of a matchbox. We were joined by our enthusiastic Engineer Nic who works at Bombardier. He set us the task of redesigning the storage spaces on the interior of his trains. The initial aim of our time on the Loughborough University campus was to complete a scaled down model of our design ideas. However, it also gave us a taster of what it's like being a student and living independently.

Our day consisted of a very early wake up, breakfast and a trek across the campus to our workshops. Our working day was lengthy: from 9am to 9pm with a lunch break and dinner back at the hall. We had a few lectures which broke our day up and gave our legs a short rest but apart from that we were working down in the workshops on the lathe and band saws cutting chunks out of slabs of MDF. We were there for 3 days,

and worked like Trojans: we finished our models of a luggage stack, over head rack and a drawer that fits underneath seats. We finished well before the other group, who were making a contraption that was to attach two carriages, and even thought it wasn't a race, I'd like to think we won.

I learnt many lessons from the residential visit: it opened quite a few new doors. If I was offered the chance to go again I would definitely say yes!

Joe McWha, Year 12





# Meet our Languages Assistants!



## Alex, Spanish Tutor

Alex teaches Spanish at Landau Forte College and first became interested in learning languages when he was sixteen. When asked how living in England compares with Barcelona, Alex jovially replied that England was much colder. He also added that the schedules and meals in England differ from that in Spain. Alex enjoys the freedom and free time here in England most of all, and finds England a calm place to live. During his free time, Alex likes to travel. His favourite thing about working here at Landau Forte College is the people. In comparison to other



schools Alex has worked in before, he says that Landau has a large quantity of resources and the Information Technology used here is impressive. I enquired about what Alex misses most about his birth land, to which he instantly replied his friends, although he has made many new friends since beginning his life in England.



## Theo, German Tutor

Theo was born in Germany and now teaches German to students at Landau Forte College. He first began to learn languages around the age of 9. Before coming to teach at Landau, Theo taught on blackboards instead of the Smart Boards used here, and is impressed by the advanced ICT Landau has at its disposal. He also says that Landau is more structured than schools in Germany, with every tutor having specific jobs and roles with the College, as well as working as a team to better the College. Unlike Alex, Theo says



that England is not colder than his birth land, where temperatures sometimes reach -10°C. The thing he misses the most about Germany is how bread is eaten, and he jokingly said with a smile on his face that Brits don't know how to eat bread and how it is ruined by being toasted. Theo enjoys travelling too, and takes advantage of his flexible schedule to follow this passion. He claims Derby is perfectly situated in the middle of England to allow him to go anywhere within the UK or cross the Channel and enter France.



## Miss Lui, Chinese Tutor

Born in China, Miss Lui now teaches Chinese at Landau Forte College. Compared to the city she grew up in, Derby is quiet and peaceful. However, she commented that shopping in Derby is inconvenient and requires her to come into the city centre, as opposed to being able to shop anywhere as she could in her hometown. Miss Lui first became interested in learning languages as a little girl and has been fascinated with the English language for over twenty years. The thing she misses about China is the food. Her favourite things about



England are the people, who she said are kind, and fresh air. However, understandably Miss Lui isn't quite so happy with English weather. She finds the students that she teaches Chinese to at Landau Forte lovely and cooperative.



# Television goes Green

We sent Farrah Lord-Newcombe to the furthest regions of Switzerland to report on the latest weather conditions for the College's new television programme: or did we? LFC:TV (Landau Forte College Television) is the College's new television station that is using the latest in green screen video technology in their new show.

The College has always had a media room but it has recently had a makeover and become a fully functional television studio. The video room is full of the latest equipment such as high definition cameras, autocue script prompter, wireless microphones, green screen and an edit station with all the latest video editing programs.

Students have formed a College television station called LFC:TV. As an extracurricular activity on Thursdays, students have designed a fascinating and informative programme that will keep viewers updated on events that happen around College. Anchormen Ben Burton and Sanel Susak introduce LFC:TV's new programmes. "We choose a tutor base to go and do our live links in. We then have a live audience to present in front of and get them involved with the show!" says Ben.



'The Switch' is the College's news programme that shows the latest interviews with LFC:TV's video reporters. Lauren Monaghan introduces the news interviews from the virtual studio. She explains that the College's latest equipment is a green screen. When we film against it, the computer takes out the colour green and replaces it for another image. Students have transported themselves to different countries and even reported from the virtual studio, without leaving the video room.

If you would like to get involved there are plenty of roles from presenting to crew roles such as cameraperson or floor manager. Ross Keeling is the studio floor manager for the presenters of the entertainment show, 'LFC:FIX'. He says: "It is my job to help out and to make sure everything runs smoothly. It is a great experience working with the team. I enjoy working with them."

Stay tuned for the latest episode of LFC:TV!

D Taylor

## Junior Maths Challenge Puzzle

Yesterday, the reading on Granny's electricity meter was 098657. She was shocked to realise that all six of the digits were different. How many more units of electricity will she use before the next time all the digits are different?

- A. 1    B. 4    C. 14    D. 55    E. 3688

Answer for Maths puzzle on page 19





# GCSE French Group go Crêpe Mad!

Last term the Year 10 GCSE French group took their understanding of French cuisine to a whole new level. Under the watchful direction of Mrs Kirk, they started out by researching traditional French food and French recipes and decided that they would like to have a go at cooking some Crêpes: thin, delicate French pancakes.

They headed off to the Food room, which the technology team had kindly vacated, gathered their ingredients together, donned their aprons and had a bash at being French Chefs for the day (well, at least for an hour or so). ‘Merci beaucoup’ to Monsieur Needham for his support.

The language staff, who were amongst those lucky enough to sample the results, all agreed that they had made a fine job of a difficult task. “Les Crêpes sont magnifiques!” remarked Mr Calow. “J’adore les crêpes!” commented Miss Watson. Students also enjoyed the results of their labour and experimented with different fillings to see which ones worked best.

To top off an enjoyable culinary journey, Mrs Kirk also brought in her very special brand of ‘escargots’, which some students were brave enough to try!

L Watson

## Cinema Visits

Derby has a brand new arts cinema: The Quad. You can hardly miss it: it’s that new cube –shaped building opposite the Assembly Rooms. In October, during National Schools Film Week, the Quad showed a number of films to students for free.

Students from the A-Level French group went to see a classic French film: “À Bout de Souffle”. Made in 1960, this film is still exciting: a fast-paced thriller which is beautifully shot. It was banned for four years when it first came out and made the leading man Jean-Paul Belmondo a star and a heart-throb.

The German A-Level group went to see a German film called “Die Fälscher”- “The Counterfeitors”, about a group of prisoners in a concentration camp who were forced to make fake money for the Germans. The film was very moving and thought-provoking. At the end of the film students discussed how appropriate it was for films to be made about the Holocaust: do they glorify this awful event or do they help remind us of the horrors that men can inflict on each other? One of our students has even chosen to write her A-Level coursework on this topic, having been inspired by this visit.

If you’ve never taken the time to watch a foreign language film (with subtitles), why not give it a go? It will open up a whole new world of cinema to you.

L Watson





# The Ethics of Pregnancy

During Year 11 RE sessions we had a visit from an organisation called SPUC: Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. During this visit they talked to us about the serious matter of abortion, going into detail about the ethical issues and religious issues. It opened our eyes to a subject that isn't very familiar to many of us. We were split into two groups and taken into separate rooms, where we had talks from different experts, watched videos and heard some personal stories. We discussed the concept of personhood which links with our studies in science, which is vital in any discussion about abortion.

A spokesperson for the Pro-choice movement that supports the choice of women over the rights of this foetus also came to talk to us. This forum for discussion was interesting, informative and allowed us to express our own thoughts and feelings on this issue. Students involved in this talk said that they enjoyed it and thought it was a good approach to dealing with a sensitive issue.

*"It made our RE lessons very interesting in a way that was comfortable for everyone," commented Daisy Doherty.*

Elisha White and Alexandra Matkin, Year 11



## Inspired by Design

In the early hours of a rather chilly November morning we departed for London to attend the 'Inspired by Design' lectures at the Institute of Education. Luckily this year there were no traffic problems and we arrived in plenty of time to take our seats for the day's talks from a number of professional designers.

The keynote lecture was given by Wayne Hemmingway. Some of you may know him from his appearances on Soccer AM but older readers will remember him as the founder of the 'Red or Dead' fashion label from the 1980s. As you may know, Wayne is an excellent speaker and he enthralled the

audience with his own personal story of how he became a designer. He certainly lived up to the billing as he was truly inspirational.

The second lecture involved a Q&A session with 4 professional designers. This was also inspiring and very useful for the students to ask questions. The first lecture after lunch was from Jason Iftakhar. He explained his interest in sustainable design before giving some detailed case studies on some of the work he has carried out. He has done a lot of design work on Solar Power and he was involved in the design of the Serpentine Solar Shuttle in Hyde Park, London. The last lecture was from Quadro Design Associates. They talked about the Global market and how design changes our world. They explained their ethos and principles and talked us through some of the work they had done.

It was a fantastic and thoroughly inspiring day. If you would like to know more then please have a look at the notice board in the Technology Display area.

K Bellamy





Being able to experience art outside the classroom is an integral part of learning about art and other artists. Visits to art galleries and museums are an exciting way to appreciate the scale, size and details of an artwork and also engage with it at closer proximity with our senses: for instance to touch the texture of a surface or to be able to step in and around a sculpture. There is so much diversity in contemporary art, you are sure to find something that inspires or surprises you. So try it yourself: the website below is a great way to find a place to go. <http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/>

L Hopkins

## Art Outside the Classroom

As part of our Year 11 BTEC course, we visited three art galleries in London: the Tate Britain, Tate Modern and The National Art Museum. It was really exciting to see the diversity of art forms: from traditional Renaissance paintings to the contemporary and conceptual. I created a research page as you can see here.

Kelly O'Callaghan, Year 10



On the 6th January we visited the Djanogly Art Gallery in Nottingham. The high light of the exhibition were the introductory speech at the beginning which gave us a lot of information about the art pieces. It was really helpful for me personally as the speaker told us a lot about the artist Rebecca Partridge who I am particularly inspired by. I loved how she used the colours and the weird abstract shapes in her pieces. In the art gallery book, there is a quote by a critic about her work which says: 'At the heart of your paintings are moments of stillness, areas of darkness or light from which shards of colour are born, expanding towards the viewer in a burst of intense creative energy.' (Richard Davy). In my own butterfly paintings I found a connection between her techniques and mine so I tried one of her pieces which you can see in the photo.

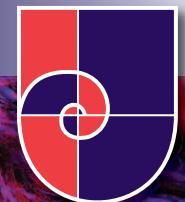
Melissa Archer, Year 11

As part of a BTEC Art project we are currently examining mechanical objects, and to help us with this our group of Year 12s visited Manchester Museum of Science and Industry so we could take some first-hand photographs and primary observational drawings.

Manchester is a very industrial city, and there were details of many different aspects of textile manufacture, which is what the city specialised in. It was very interesting because we got to see many different types of machines and the detail of the engineering. It was a great day out, and we gained lots of material for the project. The image shows some of the photographs taken at the museum and one of my drawings in response to the visit.

Emily Goodrick, Year 12





# The Little Match Girl

Despite many successful performances from the Drama Group over the past two years, we had still not performed at the Christmas Concert, and so that was my aim when we started again last year. The problem though, was finding something short enough to produce by term two, yet appropriate for Christmas, and most importantly, challenging enough for the members of Drama Group so that it would extend them as performers.

Whilst searching with my very specific criteria I found 'The Little Match Girl', and after wiping away the tear this moving story caused, I was faced with problem number two: how could a Drama Group the size of mine produce this story with hardly any characters in? But it wasn't a problem at all, in fact, having a large cast meant that we could use everyone to recreate key moments in the story.

The use of physical theatre made any use of costume almost an obstacle, so very simply the red scarves were born, which became an extension of the physical theatre and really brought to life key moments, such as the matches being lit. The 6 lanterns also added to the effect, creating the Christmas tree and the stars in the sky.

Very simple use of props was all that was needed as the performers in Drama Group movingly brought the story to life. The contrast in slowly walking and creating a cold, dark atmosphere, with using physical

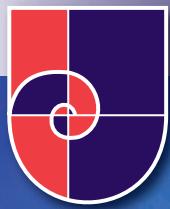
theatre to bring matches, dinner tables and a steaming roast goose to life, moved the Drama Group to yet another level of performance. The story-telling skills needed to deliver such a moving narrative, also allowed the performers to experiment with the subtleties of voice, and their sound and movement as a chorus clearly showed what a solid ensemble the members of Drama Group are.

The success of the performance in the Christmas Concert, and the theme of New Year, allowed the piece to be performed in Gathering the first week back. Although it received much praise from both students and tutors, there was one criticism: it made for a sad start to the year. Well if the performers made you shed a tear, have a lump in your throat or just feel sad, then they did their jobs properly in re-telling the moving story of The Little Match Girl.

A huge well done to all involved! They were: Tom Butler-Roberts, Henry Sharpe, Evie McFarlane, Bethany Robinson, Daniel Woolley, Natalie Holmes, Bianca Malomvari, Elisabeth Price, Katie Levers, Kayleigh Hardy, Lucy Knight, Demi-Marie Croft, Bonnie Howard, Daniel Meakins, Adam Gorry-Ogden, Rachel Evans, Elisha White, James Thompson, Alex Withey, Sinead Close, Rose Martin, Danielle Bello, Nicole Barton, Jade Ruston, Connor Smyth and Stacey Holmes.

A Wrampling





PA



## Youth Theatre on the Glacier

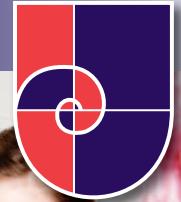
The retreating glaciers of Iceland was the setting for the Youth Theatre's latest original piece of music theatre created for the Remembrance Gathering. Jonathon Levers and Adam Horvath, pictured here, were members of a lost RAF bomber crew that crashed into a glacier while on operations in 1941. In the Remembrance Gathering, members of the Youth Theatre have Pilot Officer Arthur Round, aged 26 from New Zealand, and his radio operator and gunner, Reginald Hopkins, aged 21 from Southampton, awaken from their frozen sleep. Through a series of flash backs, searching of memories and investigating the wreckage, the crew come to the icy realisation that they are ghosts.

Well done to Lucy James, Jenny Lin, Nick Ward, Daniela Basuta, Eleanor Moss, Sarah Allsop, Jonathan Levers, Adam Horvath, Matthew Ripley and Billy Gadsby for producing such a thought-provoking performance.

The Youth Theatre's next mission is to create some music theatre on an Irish theme for the tour during Enrichment.

A Coffey





# The Christmas Concert

The lights were programmed, the sound had been checked and a steady stream of people entered the theatre to a backing track of salsa music. The Christmas Concert 2008, my first, was about to begin. Over the next two hours the cream of Landau Forte's performing talent would take to the stage to bring laughter, joy, and at times, even sadness.

The projection room was dark except for the small glow emitted from the lighting desk and quiet but for the sound drifting in from the theatre below. By my sides were two student technicians: Lawrence Newberry on lights and Cherelle Barley on sound. In the distance sat Oliver De Lange controlling the projections. In the past week, as a team, we had performed at the Year 13 Presentation Evening and four Gatherings. All of these had involved some technical challenges – and a few malfunctions. I was nervous. The lights dimmed and we began. There were outstanding musical performances from Singers, Sticky Keys and the Year 11 Blues ensemble and some truly inspired performances from the flute group and Hoot 'n' Toot. The audience howled with laughter as the Devised Work winners for Drama performed their sketch about two horses before a race, and the winners for Dance impressed with their flexible moves. The finale of the first act was the point I was most

nervous about: the Guitar Group. I had taken the reigns of the Guitar Group back in September during my third week at Landau and had built up a strong connection with all of the members over that time. As they began to play their first number my nerves shrank away, and I beamed with pride as Aniella Windridge brought a tear to the audience's eye whilst providing vocals for 'Everybody Hurts'. The big finish to the first act was collaboration between the Singers and the guitarists, the George Harrison classic 'My Sweet Lord'. The Singers swayed, the audience clapped and I beamed as everyone was led out of the theatre to an interval of singing and pantomime, enjoyed by an army of small children.

The second act built on the success of the first with 'The Little Matchstick Girl' from the Drama Group and the incredible Youth Theatre piece 'Glacier'. After the hilarious Year 10 pantomime we were on the home strait and the evening finished with a huge Christmas sing-song. As I stood there, singing the words as loudly as possible, I thought back over the immense stress and the journey we had gone on to get to this point, and that's when I knew it had all been worth it.

C Collington





# Sportsmark Success

The College has recently achieved the Sportsmark award: the kite mark for PE and Sport within secondary schools. We are delighted that we have been awarded this standard and it highlights our students' continued commitment and enthusiasm for developing PE in College as well as the sporting opportunities the College offers for our young people. Sportsmark is based on the Physical Education & Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) data for 2007-8. This year, schools have received the mark if at least 90% of students across the school were doing at least 2 hours high quality PE and school sport a week.

## Curriculum Events

### Tennis

In our efforts to raise the profile of tennis at Landau Forte College we arranged for a Tennis Coach from David Lloyd to teach some sessions with our Year 8 and 9 students. This not only gave students an opportunity to have a specialised coaching session but also to work on techniques and game play. These sessions were very successful and enjoyable for all involved.



### Dance Mats

Through our Key Stage 4 Curriculum we were able to include dance mats in our sessions which were used as part of a health and fitness module. The mats were also used during extension and during the Open Evenings for prospective and current students. These were a great success with regards to the variety of activity, a chance to try something new and students were also able to use these in a competition format. A selection of students represented College in a dance mat competition at Noel Baker School where we came second overall. Well done!

### Trampolining

On November 25th a group of 4 trampolinists from Key Stage 4 went to perform at Da Vinci Community School. Each student had to perform their own devised routine and were marked on performance, technicality of routine and effort. The Key Stage 3 competition will be held at Landau Forte in March.



## Derby County Coaching

Through our new partnership with Derby County in the Community, a number of our Key Stage 3 students have experienced football coaching from the Club's junior coaches. These coaching sessions have proven popular and will be extended to other year groups throughout the year.

## Rugby League

Our Year 10 students have been receiving taster sessions from the Derby Rugby League Community Coach within their PE sessions and have been given the opportunity to continue with Rugby League through links with the club.

## Fixture Round-up

### Gymnastics

During November a selection of gymnasts represented the College in a competition at Lancaster sports centre. These were both boys and girls from Years 7 to 11 and were in two categories of competitive and non-competitive gymnasts. Each individual had to perform a floor routine, a body management routine and a vault according to the set guidelines. Each performed to a very pleasing standard and Catherine Harper and Tiela Brown were selected to represent Derby West in the secondary gymnastics competition which will take place in April. They will join a team of 7 to perform at the next level and will attend weekly training sessions at Landau Forte with the rest of their squad and a gymnastics coach.



## Girls Football

Throughout Terms 2 and 3, the U14 and U16 teams have been playing in the West Football League at Derby Moor Sports College on a weekly basis. The U16 side came sixth in the league which was an improvement on last year's position and the U14 team came second in the league. The U14 team got through to the Semi-Final on 21st January at Lees Brook Sports College against the East Football League winners West Park. Although we went a goal up in the first half, the team unfortunately lost 1-5. The U14 side has been one of the most successful girls football teams in recent years, so a huge congratulations to the team for their achievement. Players include: Kelsey Burton-Evans, Carly Croft, Abigail Woodward, Lauren O'Kane, Phoebe Torrence, Bethany Pateman, Jorgie Shaw and Saraya Ali.

Following on from the success of the U14 team, the U12 Football team played at Lees Brook Sports College in November in a City tournament. They played extremely well and also finished in second place. Congratulations to all involved.





## Netball

This year has seen some of the most successful results from our U12, U13, and U18 Netball squads. All have played Merrill College, West Park and Murray Park and results have been very close, mostly resulting however in success for Landau Forte. All the Netball teams have trained on a weekly basis and have worked hard to improve on last year's results. They have been rewarded with the fantastic games not only to watch but also to play in. Well done to all the members of the Netball squads.



## Boys Year 7: 5-a-side Football

The Year 7 Boys competed in the Derby City 5-a-side football tournament during Term 2. They finished second in the group stages held at Lees Brook and therefore progressed to the Finals night at Derby Moor. They finished 4th overall meaning they were the fourth best 5-a-side team in the whole of Derby.



## Boys Basketball

Our Basketball season started during Term 2 and all year groups have played several fixtures. The Year 7 and 8 teams have competed in two Derby City tournaments, with the Year 7s finishing mid-table and the Year 8s finishing 6th overall. The Year 9 team have played 2 of their Derby City League fixtures, unfortunately losing both to West Park and St Benedict's narrowly. The Year 11 team have played one of their league fixtures, losing to Merrill. The Year 10 team have made a good start in their effort to regain the Derby City League title winning their opening two fixtures against Littleover and Murray Park. They are also through to the second round of the Derbyshire County Cup after beating Lees Brook in the first round. The highlight of the season so far has been the Year 10's effort in the National Competition. In the group stage the boys won 3 of their 4 games, losing only to Bishop Stopford who reached the final of the competition last year. Unfortunately, finishing 2nd in the league was not enough to progress to the knockout stages.

## Educational Visits

Our Year 10 OCR National in Sport students were given the opportunity to experience the annual 'Sport's the Difference day' at Loughborough University earlier this year. During the day students experienced a tour of the campus and lectures on sports shoe testing, Sports Psychology and a practical session called 'Rock it ball'. Our OCR National in Sport students also received a visit from Leon Taylor, a Paralympic footballer who talked to the groups about his experiences in Beijing. This was extremely useful for developing the students' understanding of sport at national level.



## Leadership

Six of our students attended the annual Derby City Primary Tag Rugby Festival at Derby Rugby Club during their October holiday. Students officiated and were involved in management of teams throughout the day.

Nine of our most able leadership students were chosen to attend a School Sports Partnership annual coach development day. Our students attended Cheerleading, TOP activity, and Multi-Skills development sessions with a focus on Primary leadership. This course has only ever been offered to Primary teachers and Sports Development officers, and it is the first time students from any school have attended the training.

Six Key Stage 4 and 5 students were identified to undertake the Level 1 Award in Gymnastic Judging held at Derby Moor School. All six students successfully passed the qualification and will be judging the Key Stage 2 competitions across the City, having successfully judged and performed at the city Key Stage 1 competition.

## Dance Visits

For Key Stage 4 students we have scheduled dance visits at Derby Tec. These sessions are undertaken by a qualified dance teacher and have been used as part of health and fitness sessions, and during the Dance Leadership Course. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed learning various types of dances and were able to use ideas during their module.

## Dance Leadership

During Year 10 our female students undertake a course in Leadership through Dance. The first of the two groups has successfully completed the course and were assessed at Normanton Junior School on their planning, delivery and leadership. One of the comments from this school was how mature and responsible our students were and how they had catered for every learner. The girls were a credit to Landau Forte and should be commended on such a positive achievement.



## Rolls Royce and Derbyshire Cricket Club Coaching

Students have been given the opportunity to attend coaching sessions during extension time throughout Terms 2 and 3. These sessions are run by Level 3 coaches from the two clubs and allow students of all abilities to improve their cricketing skills.

Well done to all students who have been involved with our sport success so far this year. We encourage you to get involved in your PE sessions and in the wide range of extension activities we offer. Get active!

## PE Team



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