

# NewsLink

Landau Forte College Newsletter Spring 2010



## Charity Challenge!

Bananas bounced around Westfield while penguins and bears filled the streets of Derby! These were just a few of the amazing and bizarre range of activities and events which raised a staggering sum of money for Children in Need last term: more than £9000, which is the College's best effort yet!

Post-16 students set off bright and early to collect money from all the generous hearts around Derby, despite the typical British weather. While we walked the streets of the city, cakes were baked, performances were rehearsed and

tutors were dressing up in costumes ranging from Cleopatra to Hawaiian dancers! Throughout the afternoon, activities were hosted by different tutor groups to create a fun atmosphere for all to enjoy. Students got the chance to Splat the Tutor in the Quad, eat and drink a variety of unusual foods and exotic drinks in Food Technology and win prizes in many different competitions.

Children in Need is a charity whose mission is to change the lives of disadvantaged children. Every year,

thanks to public donations and the amazing efforts of fundraisers, schools and businesses, they are able to provide support to thousands of youngsters aged 18 and under. Aimee Mail, a Post-16 student, said that: 'The day was such a success. We didn't only have fun but we were able to raise £9,000 for a fantastic charity.'

Next year, we are hoping to rise above and beyond our efforts this year and raise more money than ever before.

Lindsey Bowler, Rebecca Turton and Olivia Stilwell, Year 13





# The Principals' Comment

## Appointment of New Principals

On behalf of the Trustees and Board of Governors I am delighted to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Coffey as the Principal of Landau Forte College, Derby. She has worked at Landau Forte College since 1993, as Vice Principal for the last 7 years. I am confident that under her leadership the College will go from strength to strength and we wish her every success in her new appointment.

Regarding the Academy development at Tamworth, we are also delighted to announce the appointment of Diane Pickering as the Principal Designate of the 11-16 Centre. We look forward to working with her in establishing the new Academy and again wish her every success in her new appointment.

Finally with respect to the building development of the new Academy, Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd has been appointed as the preferred contractor and the new Academy buildings remain on schedule to begin construction in June 2010, opening in 2011.

Sadly we have to report the loss of a great friend and colleague. Following a long illness Peter Shackleton, the first Principal of Landau Forte College, passed away just before Christmas. In this edition of NewsLink you will find a tribute to him.

S Whiteley  
Executive Principal

It is with a deep sense of pride that I write my first Principal's message and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported me in my journey to become the third Principal of Landau Forte College.

Appointed as the College's first specialist Tutor of History almost 17 years ago, I was not to know in 1993 what would be written in the pages of the history of Landau Forte College, and what my part in it would be. Mixed with the tragedy and grief regarding former Principal Peter Shackleton's untimely death in December, was the exhilaration and honour experienced regarding my appointment as Principal. I have undertaken a number of roles and responsibilities during my time at the College, each allowing me to develop as a professional and affording me great personal reward. I remain, as Principal, dedicated, enthusiastic and passionate about the College and the high quality education it provides for our students.

In the Spring edition of Newslink last year, the Principal's message was written by Stephen Whiteley and not only celebrated our Outstanding OFSTED judgement, but reaffirmed our ambition to grow from 'Outstanding' to 'World Class.' In an Olympic year, the lighted torch of our ambition will burn as bright as ever with the continued support of the Executive Principal, Board of Governors, staff, students and parents. As you will read in this edition of Newslink, the achievements of our staff and students continue to impress. Read on, share and celebrate the successes that make the Landau Forte College community gold medal winners.

E Coffey  
Principal



# Peter Shackleton

## The First Principal of Landau Forte College: 1990-1997

*“Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now,  
bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin.  
It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs,  
but sometimes he feels that there really is another way.  
If only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it.  
And then he feels perhaps there isn't.  
Anyhow, here he is at the bottom, and ready to be introduced to you.  
Winnie-the- Pooh”*



AA Milne October 1926



The significance of the words of AA Milne lies in the way in which they were used by Peter Shackleton when he inspired staff and parents about the possibilities of how education might be “...if only there could be another way...” When I first met Pete, I was frustrated by the education system and having been offered a job in another sector, I was about to leave education – I am delighted to say it is his fault I stayed!

When I first came to Derby for my interview, before I had met Pete, I was a little sceptical of this new educational idea. I came away inspired by Pete's vision of how education for our children in this country might be: he was one of the first City Technology College Principals who took a blank sheet of paper and began to create a new concept of secondary education. He frequently used those words of AA Milne as the springboard to challenge his and our thinking, of how together we might produce an approach to education that engaged and motivated young people, enabling them to both enjoy their education and to achieve well.

Pete never put it this way but he was undoubtedly pursuing a moral imperative of ‘championing’ city youngsters through his passionate belief that they deserved a better deal than the education system had previously given them. He passionately loved music and sport, believing them, along with the performing arts, to be the lifeblood of the College. If you engaged young people in those aspects of life, giving them constructive activities to take part in, their confidence and self esteem would grow, enabling them to achieve.

Pete also unashamedly believed that education had a moral and economic responsibility to the country. As education cost so much public money, it had to contribute to wealth generation in the country by ensuring young people leaving school for either university, or the job market, were capable, adaptable, marketable and employable people, or capable of self employment.

I, with others, was fortunate enough to come to Derby to work with him as part of something very special. The experience changed our lives but most importantly the lives of what are now several thousand children. Those of us who had the privilege of working with Peter Shackleton and, critically, who bought into his vision and passion, have endeavoured to remain true to the principles and values which are the cornerstone of the distinctive ethos and culture of Landau Forte College. We have tried, for the last twelve years since he left us, to sustain and build on those key principles. I know he believed we are succeeding; he remained passionate about the College here in Derby and was excited when we discussed the work we are also now doing in Staffordshire in building the second Landau Forte in Tamworth.

In educational terms, Peter Shackleton was undoubtedly a man ahead of his time. His legacy is that the blank piece of white paper from the Project Office inspired the blue print of the design for 21st Century schools.

S Whiteley



# Year 11 Trial Examinations

On Friday 12th January, Year 11 students received their trial examination results. This year Landau Forte College introduced a new system and grades were given on a formal basis, to prepare students for their forthcoming results this summer.

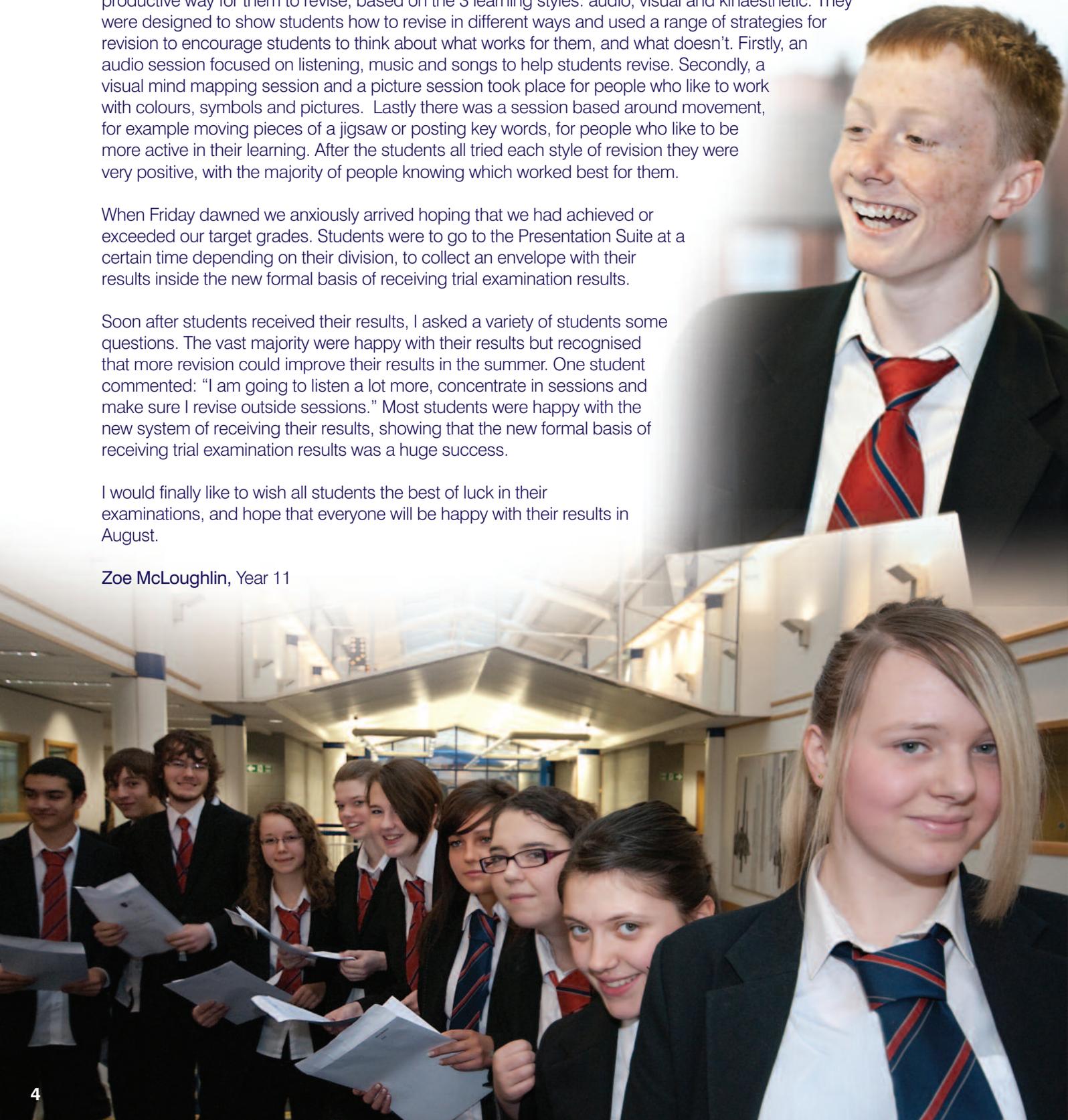
In preparation for the trial examinations, tutors arranged four workshops to help students to find the most productive way for them to revise, based on the 3 learning styles: audio, visual and kinaesthetic. They were designed to show students how to revise in different ways and used a range of strategies for revision to encourage students to think about what works for them, and what doesn't. Firstly, an audio session focused on listening, music and songs to help students revise. Secondly, a visual mind mapping session and a picture session took place for people who like to work with colours, symbols and pictures. Lastly there was a session based around movement, for example moving pieces of a jigsaw or posting key words, for people who like to be more active in their learning. After the students all tried each style of revision they were very positive, with the majority of people knowing which worked best for them.

When Friday dawned we anxiously arrived hoping that we had achieved or exceeded our target grades. Students were to go to the Presentation Suite at a certain time depending on their division, to collect an envelope with their results inside the new formal basis of receiving trial examination results.

Soon after students received their results, I asked a variety of students some questions. The vast majority were happy with their results but recognised that more revision could improve their results in the summer. One student commented: "I am going to listen a lot more, concentrate in sessions and make sure I revise outside sessions." Most students were happy with the new system of receiving their results, showing that the new formal basis of receiving trial examination results was a huge success.

I would finally like to wish all students the best of luck in their examinations, and hope that everyone will be happy with their results in August.

Zoe McLoughlin, Year 11





# A Journey From Derby To China

In February last year, I applied to join one of the newest opportunities for 18 to 19 year olds: the Prime Minister's Global Fellowship. This annual summertime programme is designed to send 100 enterprising students to three rising nations around the world: Brazil, India and China. After an in-depth written application and an ice-breaking selection day in Manchester, an e-mail greeted me on the 2nd of June telling me I had been selected to spend 6 weeks in China.

After arriving in China's capital, we spent our first two weeks immersed in the language and culture of China, staying in the dormitories of Beijing Normal University. Weekday mornings were spent learning essential Mandarin at classes in the University, while afternoons usually involved experiencing aspects of Chinese culture, such as calligraphy, ceramic crafting or Beijing opera. Some days included major excursions to significant places of Chinese civilisation: the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and an old Buddhist shrine at the Silver Pagoda Loop.

After a final test of our Mandarin skills at the University, we flew to Shanghai, where we spent two weeks working in our corporate placements. I was placed with a specialist recruitment company. Our job was chiefly to find out how the company operates in Shanghai. We collaborated with colleagues recruiting for different sectors such as education, the pharmaceutical industry and property. We witnessed

both very sizeable aspects of their work and small but important customs in the Chinese workplace, such as making sure to exchange business cards when meeting a new acquaintance and to do so with both hands.

To conclude our time in China, we attended a party displaying our artwork that we had to prepare over the 6 weeks along with a dramatic piece that we developed in our Chinese classes. Going home didn't just mean enduring a second 19 hour flight, it meant saying goodbye to many friends and traditions that we had grown attached to during our stay. I can't emphasise enough how much everyone involved in the Fellowship helped me on this journey, and how much the journey widened my view of the world.

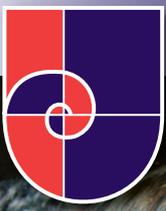
During the last weekend of October, all 100 Fellows were invited to a debriefing in London to assess what they learned from their respective countries and how this knowledge can be promoted across Britain, especially to the younger generation. The final event was an audience with Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and Prime Minister Gordon Brown at Lancaster House. Both men gave inspiring speeches that clearly showed how the Government values the UK's leading role on the global stage. We Fellows are now continuously made aware of events around the country that focus on global issues.

Alexander Jeffrey

英国首相特派青年中国访学项目  
Prime Minister's Global Fellowship 2009

Beijing Normal University  
July 30, 2009





# Spell - Bound

Landau Forte College hosted its first Spelling Bee for Year 7 students in order to prepare for the forthcoming 'The Times Spelling Bee' national competition. Following the last year's success in reaching the semi-final in Leicester, two Year 7 students, Irene Micco and Eleanor Shervill, tell us their experiences of their personal quests to represent the College this March.

My name is Eleanor Shervill and in December my team and I won the Landau Forte Spelling Bee competition.

It all started in our English session when Mrs Ellis came to talk to us about the Spelling Bee. We used The Times Spelling Bee website to make our own profiles and complete our first spelling challenge. A few days later we were told who would be competing in the Spelling Bee. I was selected with five others from my learning group: Irene, Mariam, Dilshere, Liam and Ryan as a reserve.

Next we competed against teams from two other learning groups. Our group and another group drew. We completed a knock-out round and we drew once more! Finally after one more sudden-death round, our team won. I was amazed.

On the day of the Landau Forte Spelling Bee final, I was so nervous; the whole of Year 7 was watching. Soon I was being asked to spell words. The next thing I knew, I was the last person standing! I couldn't believe it but I was also quite scared I might let my team down.

Our team got 36 points and the other team got 33. At first I didn't believe it but then it sank in. I was over the

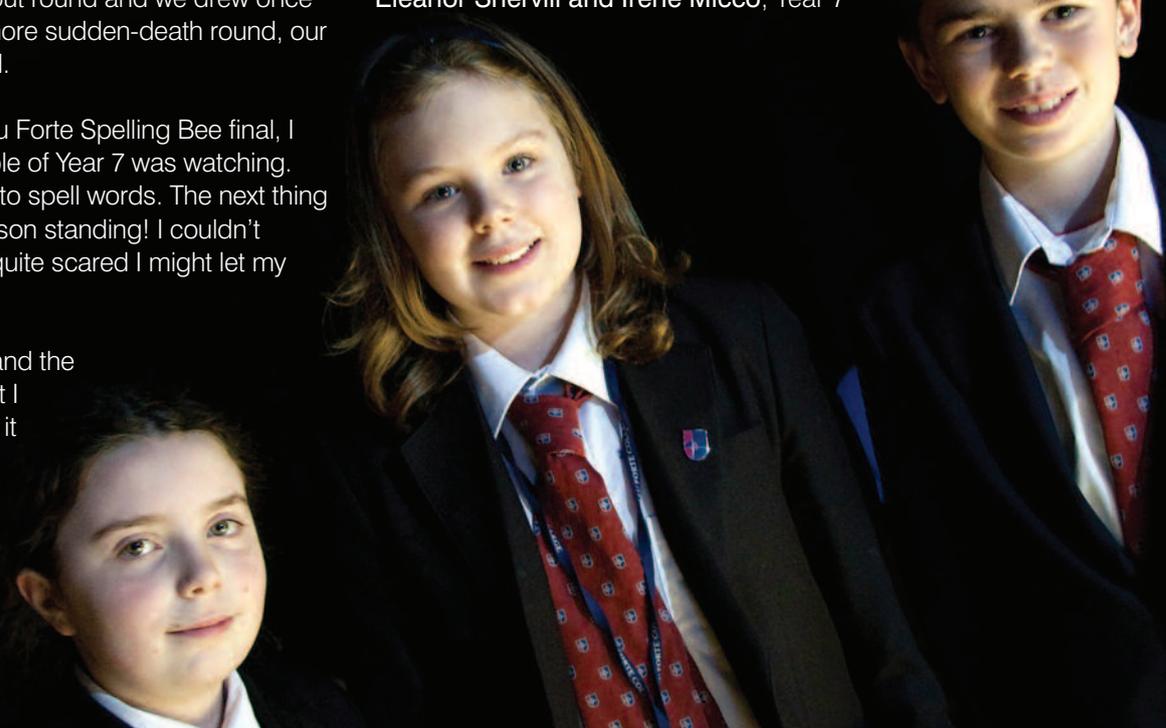
moon! Now I have my fingers crossed that I will be selected for the Times Spelling Bee competition.

I am Italian, and have only been learning English for about four years so, for me, the challenge of the Spelling Bee was twofold. I felt really nervous, because I wasn't sure if I was going to succeed but I also felt very excited because if I did, I would go through to the final competition.

On the day of the Landau Forte Spelling Bee I was the first to compete, so my adrenaline was really high; there were so many people staring at me! As soon as I started to spell, I felt happier because I thought we were going to win and everyone would be very proud of our team. My heart was pounding very fast. Some of the words were quite easy but some were harder to spell. My teammates were great and I was happy to compete with them.

In the end I think I did quite well. I spelt all the words that I was given with only a few mistakes. Fingers crossed for the next competition!

Eleanor Shervill and Irene Micco, Year 7





# Drugs Awareness Week

Monday 28th September saw the start of the College's biennial Drugs Awareness Week. The aim of the week was to raise awareness, not only of the dangers of drugs, but also of where students could go for help and advice on such issues. The week was packed full of activities for students in their learning sessions and at tutor time.

On Monday, PC Shaun Bott, a Derby City Police officer, came into College and spoke to several Post-16 groups about the dangers of drugs and how even a small drug conviction can drastically affect their future. Also on Monday, Benson the sniffer dog and his handler Martin, were ready at the entrance to College to greet the students as they started the week.

Students were also greeted by Post-16 students, Adam Smith and Adam Horvath, dressed as beer bottles. They handed out leaflets on how to avoid putting yourself in danger when drinking alcohol and drinking within safe limits. Tuesday also saw the first Gathering about Drugs Awareness. The main message of the Gathering was delivered by Addaction, an organisation providing support for young people who are experiencing drug and alcohol related issues. On Thursday, students were greeted again by Adam and Adam, this time dressed as cigarettes, handing out leaflets on the dangers of smoking. Year 13 students were given the opportunity to take a First Aid Crash Course. Here they were taught the recovery position and how to look after someone in that situation, should they need it in the future.

Many activities were also covered in learning sessions, such as debates on legalising cannabis and debating the effect of legal and illegal drugs. Students were very aware of the week's aims and learnt from all the activities they took part in. Overall, it was an enjoyable week, with a very strong message.

## L Cheese

All Year 10 students saw a theatre production on the dangers of alcohol abuse. This was just before Drugs Awareness Week, to allow us some time to think about it before the week's events. The performance was very funny, but became very serious towards the end. It made us more aware of how alcohol can affect our bodies and our actions. It made us think about responsible drinking. In the afternoon, we took part in workshops when we were given the opportunity to question the characters in a Jeremy Kyle style reality show. Then we had to decide who we thought was responsible for the consequences of the drinking. It gave us some very clear messages in an unusual way regarding alcohol consumption and its dangers. It was a fun day and very beneficial.

Thandiwe Mwanza and Emily Edwards, Year 10





# Senior Mathematics Challenge Triumph

In November, a team of four: David Wilson, Yagmur Altunoz and Matthew and Christopher Arran, took part in the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge regional heat. After a few sessions of training beforehand, we were determined to keep hold of the trophy that Matt Ripley, Sanel Susak, and the two Arrans had won last year. With both Matt and Sanel now at Cambridge and Oxford respectively, it was obviously a hard act to follow.

It was an enjoyable competition, both interesting and challenging, with a group round, a relay round, and a cross number, all involving a good deal of teamwork in addition to difficult maths: Fibonacci numbers up to 987 anyone? The great venue at the University of Derby, with lots of tea,

biscuits and free toy penguins, and the challenge of the competition itself were only topped because we managed to win the regional heat, having done very well in the cross number and group round, and not quite so badly as many teams in the quickfire relay round.

That means we must prepare for the national finals held in London on the 3rd February, against many more of the best teams from across the whole country and much more difficult questions. We also have to research and design a poster on fractals, which are both extremely pretty and mathematically very interesting.

Christopher Arran, Year 13



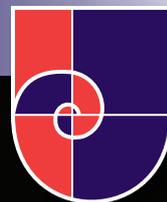
## Christmas Fun

At four o'clock on the 16th of December we went to T1B to do Christmas technology extension. We made Christmas tree decorations, a Santa hat key ring and a snowflake key ring. It was a good experience and we enjoyed it.

The 'Twizzled' tree decoration used Cross filing and Draw filing Techniques along with wet and dry finishing. Students then went onto the Vac Forming Machine to heat the plastic so that it could be bent to the required shape. The snowflake tree decoration and key rings were designed using 2D-Design and cut by students using the Laser Cutter and finally assembled using Tensol Glue, wool and hoops. Well done to the students that attended: it was a success and will be repeated next year.

Vinay Mistry, Kayten Girn, Jack Terry, Mandida Mhondoro and Hajra Shakoor, Year 7





# Public Speaking And Debating

It has been a busy year for the students taking part in Public Speaking and Debating. In October, four Post 16 students: Charlotte Isaac, Taibah Yassin, Beth Howard and Charlotte Woodman took part, at very late notice, in the Debating Matters competition putting in a good showing at 48 hours notice against teams who had had a month to prepare.

In November, Christopher Arran and Catherine Wragg competed in our first attempt at the Cambridge Schools Debating competition. Again they put in an excellent performance particularly in the short order debate, where they only had 15 minutes to prepare their topic with no external help. Also in November, Fran Martin, Rachel Evans and Lauren Hughes won through to the next round of the BPW Public Speaking Competition: the girls will be taking part in the semi finals at Derby University on the 27th of February. December saw the initial rounds of the prestigious MACE completion – a parliamentary style debate based on the House of Commons. Jon McGovern and Hannah Nichols-Green represented the College at the Walton Girls' School in Grantham. In a tightly fought contest they did not progress to the next round but their presentation and the quality of their questioning was highly praised by the judges.

This year is promising to be packed with the College hosting the launch of the ESU (English Speaking Union) branch in Nottingham and Derby. We also hosted a training session on Public Speaking that was attended by other local schools and we will be hosting the opening rounds of the ESU Public Speaking Competition where we hope to emulate previous years' successes. Watch this Space!

N Dobson



## Year 7 Are Now Fully Booked

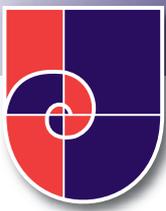
In Term one, all new Year 7 students were given the opportunity to select a free reading book from a selection of 13 samples sent to all participating schools and colleges.

This was the 3rd year of 'Booked Up': an initiative to encourage new secondary school students to continue their enjoyment of reading even with the excitement and distraction of starting a new school and is supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families along with Book Trust, an established literacy group.

Mrs Smith, the Information Centre assistant was determined that all 169 Year 7 students would benefit from this offer and so at the end of term 1, the IC was filled with excited Year 7 students collecting their chosen book.

C Holme





# Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is one of the charities that our College supports, helping children less fortunate than ourselves so they can enjoy Christmas as much as we do. All around the country, schools, churches, clubs and families fill boxes full of presents which include toys, sweets, stationery and many more items. These boxes then get posted to 26 different countries around the world! Last year 1.2 million boxes were packed and sent.

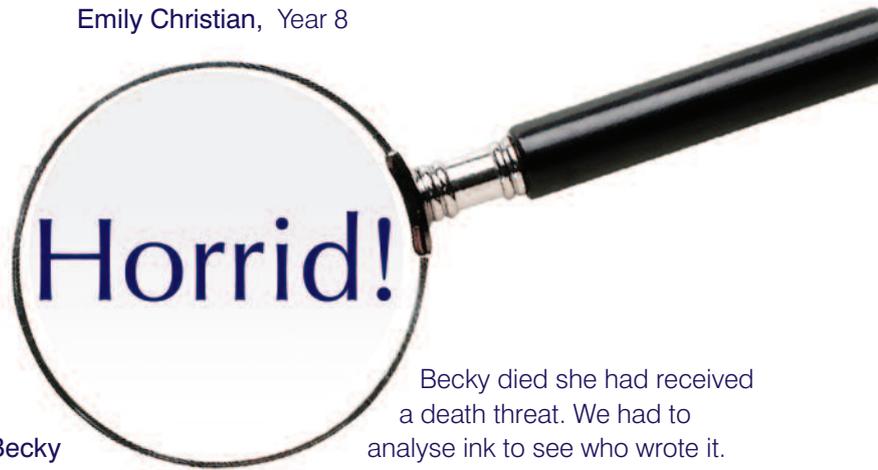
During October and November, tutor groups worked hard to pack, wrap and label shoeboxes crammed full of presents. This year we filled over 225 boxes full of presents, which is a great achievement. A big well done to Miss Cheese's and Dr Holroyd's tutor groups who together packed an amazing 22 boxes!

It was a good opportunity to work with others in the tutor group, organising people to bring gifts, wrapping boxes in Christmas paper and labelling them. It was also nice to know that what we were doing would make children around the world, who would otherwise not receive anything at all, have a special Christmas,

Thank you to all who made this year's Operation Christmas Child a big success.

Emily Christian, Year 8

# Murder Most Horrid!



On 23rd November we were in tutor time when all of Year 7 went to the Presentation Suite. In there was the chalked outline of a dead body: Becky Boyle! She was apparently killed the previous night and we were told that our job that afternoon was to investigate her murder.

To do this is we had to use the College science laboratories and our science skills to examine several pieces of evidence. We had to inspect foot prints found on the window sill at the scene of the crime.

Next, we had to use a microscope to look at the fibres that were taken from Becky's hand. Then we had to look at the finger prints that were found on the possible murder weapons: a knife, a wine bottle, a plate and the glass from the window. It turned out that the day before

Becky died she had received a death threat. We had to analyse ink to see who wrote it.

And as if that wasn't enough, we then had to look at the contents of her stomach: we found out she was allergic to biscuits! Following our investigations, we used bananas to learn about DNA and how it can be extracted and used as evidence.

The evidence mostly pointed towards John Price, one of Becky's old school friends, but we never found out for certain who the murderer was, although we enjoyed trying to find out.

Katherine Welsh and Oruna Begum, Year 7



# Our Language Assistants

As the world modernises, it is essential we teach the importance of modern foreign languages to the population. This is where the foreign languages team, along with the help of the language assistants, step into the limelight. To learn more about exactly what it's like to be a language assistant in Landau Forte College, I interviewed the Spanish, German and Chinese language assistants.



Ana Cathaysa Medina Blanco, the Spanish assistant, was born in Tenerife in the Canary Islands, but moved to Malaga later in life. She has come to England to find work and learn more about the English culture, as it is of interest to her.

Marvin Wehren, the German assistant, is from Kleve, which is near Duisburg in Germany. He is visiting England as he wants to work in this country.

Zhang Li, the Chinese assistant is from Shanghai. She is visiting England as she wishes to work here and her school in Shanghai is partnered with Landau.

## How have you found your stay at Landau Forte?

**Ana:** It has been enjoyable, as it is a comfortable setting, the tutors are all friendly and I fit in well with the languages team.

**Marvin:** I am enjoying my stay at Landau Forte College. I like working with the students here, and enhancing their learning. All of the other tutors are very friendly and I am very satisfied with my job here at Landau.

**Zhang Li:** My stay at Landau Forte has been good. My colleagues are nice, the students are smart and eager to learn and it's been an overall good experience.

## How is school life at Landau different to schools in Spain/Germany/China?

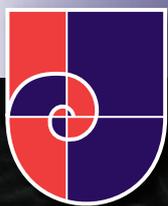
**Ana:** The main difference is the attitude of the students. Whilst training at a Spanish high school the children were very rude to me. This is different in Landau, as most of the students are polite and respect teachers more. Landau is much more organised and team based than schools in Spain, and the technology such as computers for IT and machinery for technology are more advanced than most used in Spanish schools.

**Marvin:** The biggest difference is the uniform; it is very different to what many schools in Germany wear. I actually prefer the uniform at Landau Forte, it's much more professional. The school day at Landau is longer than that in Germany, and it is differently organised. The personal tutor system is a new idea for me, but I think that it is a good idea and should be used in other schools.

**Zhang Li:** There are quite a lot of differences. In China, there are fixed classrooms, and the teachers move between them instead of the students. One session in China lasts forty minutes whereas here it lasts one hour. There are no performing arts or cooking classes in China, but one of the biggest differences is the morning exercise. Every day before school, everyone takes part in morning exercise on the playground. This is followed by the raising of the Chinese flag, like they do with their flag in America.

Landau Forte values its languages assistants highly, as they are an invaluable resource for the students who wish to further their studies in modern foreign languages. Each year brings a new set of language assistants from all around the globe, so ensure you make full use of their time whilst they are available.

Connor Boylan, Year 12



# Tying Themselves In Knots!

Every Wednesday for three weeks I have been invited by Mrs Wahid to teach Chinese knots to art club students. I really enjoyed the time spent with them and was also touched by their terrific work.

Chinese knots is a decorative handicraft art and often used to express good wishes, including happiness, prosperity, love and the absence of evil. Crafting the Chinese knot (even a simple knot such as button knot) is a three-step process, which involves tying knots, tightening them and adding the finishing touches. It means you need put in more patience, more focus, more perseverance and more confidence.

Actually it's not only a challenging experience for them but also for me. During the second class I taught them hand by hand. Everyone threw themselves into their work and made every effort to do it well. They also helped each other. Eventually everybody was successful. One student even searched on the Internet and made 3 other kinds of knots besides finishing the knot I taught her.

I'm very proud of them.

Zhang L

## Saint Alkmund's Church

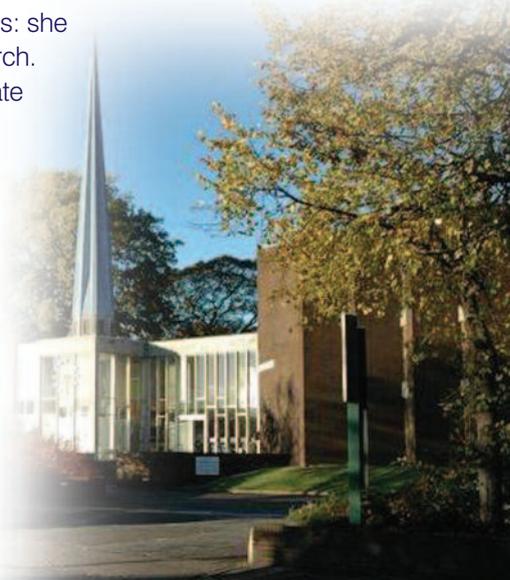
Last term the Year 10 students studying Philosophy and Ethics GCSE visited Saint Alkmund's Church. We learnt what happens at the church on certain days and events and we also learnt and explored the uses and whereabouts of the different rooms within the church.

The Year 10 students were shown around by a youth worker called Ems: she answered many questions and was a great tour guide around the church. The church is of great benefit to the community and they even designate certain days for the homeless so they can come inside the church for warmth, food, and showers for their personal hygiene.

The church itself is very modern and has a lot of presentational technology such as a large projection board, microphones and speakers. The church still maintains its religious roots though with stained glass windows and a large cross just above the altar. In conclusion, we learnt directly from a strong religious believer a great deal of information about Christianity and the work of the church.

The following link tells you many details and facts about St Alkmund's Church: <http://www.alkmunds.org.uk/>.

Luke Maskrey, Year 10





# Examining Examinations

As most people will be aware, the winter exam season is finally drawing to a close! Many students at Landau Forte over recent weeks have experienced the usual exam related feelings of stress, panic and now relief. Surprisingly, even though the frenzy of the January modular exams has just passed, the work for the main summer exam season is already ongoing. With the tier of entries confirmed in February for the summer exams, it is now that tutors must make the decision of which tier the students will be placed on before exam day. Then, during May, coursework marks must be submitted, along with special entry requirements for some candidates. Some students complete their examinations separately if they have special considerations such as use of a scribe, laptop, or a reader; some of these candidates may also be granted special rest breaks. It is a very specific process that verifies these conditions, so the work load increases among not only students, but the tutors and admin staff.

For some students it may have been the first experience of an exam with a result which will truly have a lasting impact on them, be it a GCSE or A Level. Miss Adams, from the English team said the stress of the students is shared by the tutors: "Many students tend to work better under pressure," said Miss Adams, although she commented that, "the best results are usually achieved by the students who are hard workers all year."

Despite any negative reactions to exams, with last year's outstanding success, we certainly should be assured that Landau Forte students always make us and themselves proud!

Katie Williams, Year 12



## Junior Mathematical Challenge

This national Challenge is open to students in Year 8 and below. Can you work out the correct answer?

How many minutes are there from 11:11 to 23:23 on the same day?

A: 12    B: 720    C: 732    D: 1212    E: 7212

Check your answer on page 23





# Inspired By Design

In the early hours of a rather chilly December morning we departed for London to attend the 'Inspired by Design' lectures at the Institute of Education.

The first lecture was given by Grace Davey and Jonathon West who introduced six projects from the 'Design Bugs Out' competition. They designed a series of products to aid cleanliness in hospitals and showed some really innovative and exciting work including a design for a mattress cover that alerted nurses to the possibility of contamination and a blood pressure cuff that used magnets to fasten it to the patient's arm.

One of the highlights of the day was a lecture from Pascal Anson who had the audience participating in the creation of a film! He was really excellent and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and his insight into design.

The highlight of the day was the keynote lecture delivered by the Designer, Richard Seymour. Many of you will recognise him as the man from the 'Better by Design' videos. Richard Seymour and Dick Powell are two of the UK's leading product designers and have designed everything from kettles to motorbikes.

It was a fantastic and thoroughly inspiring day. Mission accomplished.

K Bellamy

# Cooking Up A Storm!

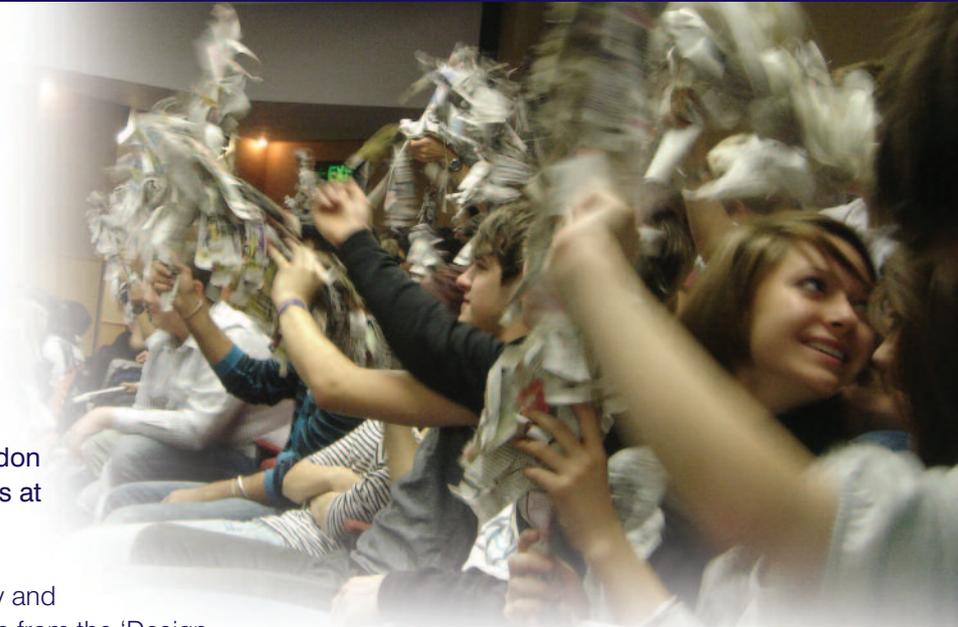
Landau Forte Cookery Club, which takes place every Tuesday, provides a valuable experience for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 and the chance to develop their cooking talents.

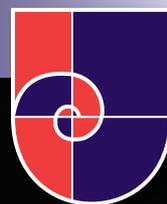
Erin Barry and Alisha King, both Year 8 students, said that 'the club is really enjoyable. We've made friends, learnt to cut and chop, but also how to cook a proper meal.'

Over the course of the term, the group will alternate weekly between cooking main meals and desserts, with dishes varying from vegetable curry to double chocolate brownies. Students are selected each term to take part in this exciting opportunity and to develop skills which they can use in the future; whether that is at university or when preparing a family meal.

If you are in Years 7, 8 or 9 and have a keen interest in cooking, then speak to Mrs Edwards or Mrs Hacking to see if you can take part in the exciting world of cookery next term.

Lindsey Bowler, Year 13





# Creative Inspiration

Recently, the designer Sir Paul Smith visited Landau Forte and gave an insightful presentation, sharing his work and inspiration with us. He advised the audience to let the dream drive you, while understanding the need to sustain yourself and provide for a living.

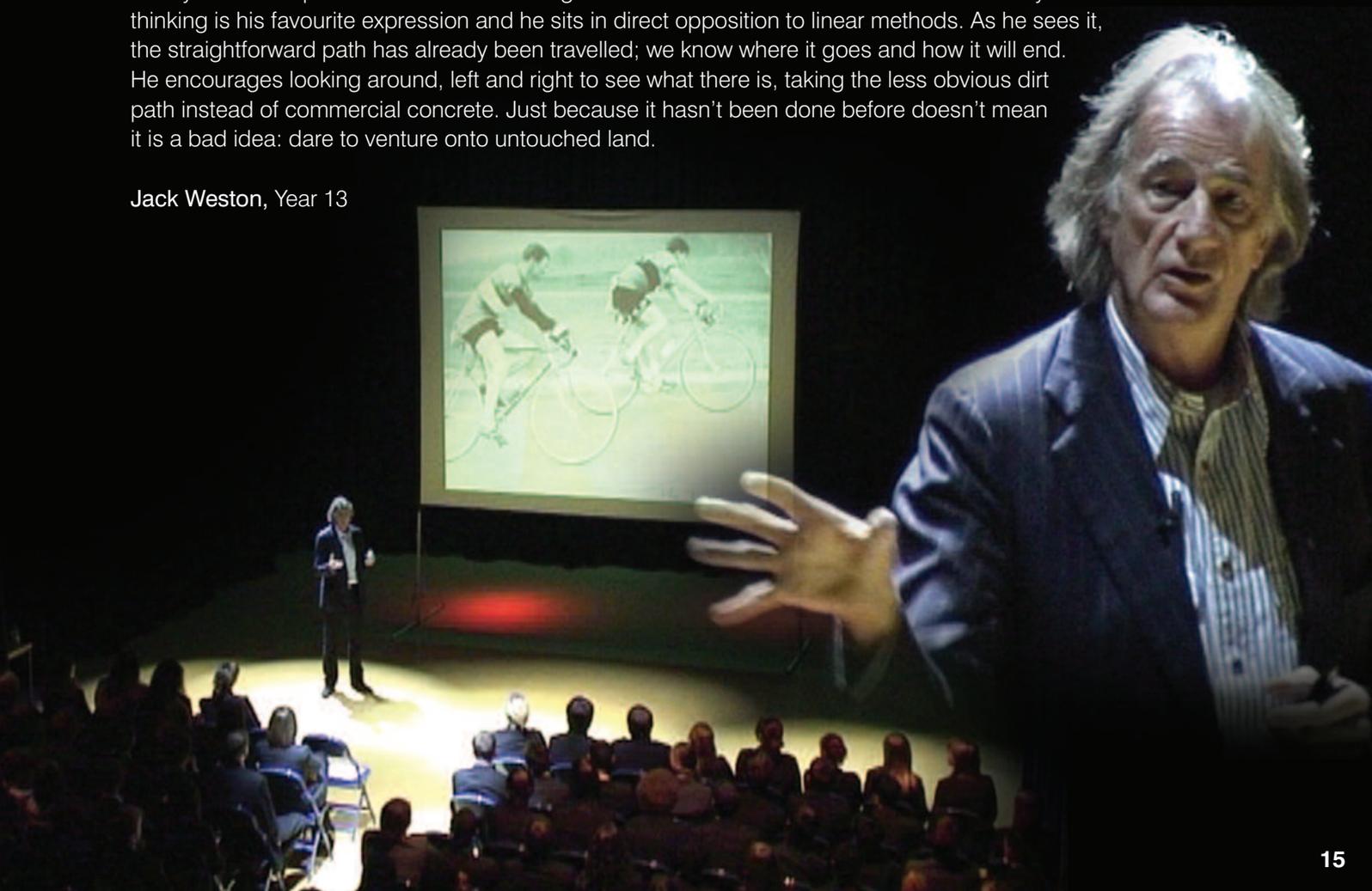
He is definitely not affected by his success: "I'm still waiting for a red bus to fall on me from the sky. I'm doing what I love for a living!" He acknowledges that he has been fortunate to work with some talented people and drawn what he can from them but he has come very far from starting his first showroom with only £600.

What sets him apart from other designers? Firstly, he adds value to his clothes in simple ways: his example was white shirts. They are sold everywhere, so he asked himself "What will make people buy my white shirts?" He added three different coloured buttons to the sleeve and it is no longer another white shirt. Attention to detail is important to him and understanding not only the aesthetics, but the inner-workings too. Secondly his window displays are also unique: some of them don't even relate to his brand, but they leave their impression on you. Furthermore there is no standard presentation of any shop; they all have their own personality, character and atmosphere.

As we all listened to him enthuse about his work, I noticed his ability to express his opinions and get everyone on board. He articulated his speech in a way that tailored it perfectly to the situation. He asked me what I was interested in and when I replied with "English" he immediately told me: "With my clothes, I craft them like you would your writing. The pockets on a jacket are the punctuation marks that define it and each crafted sentence culminates together to make an item, for example."

Finally Sir Paul explained the clichéd thinking "outside the box" in a much more effective way. Lateral thinking is his favourite expression and he sits in direct opposition to linear methods. As he sees it, the straightforward path has already been travelled; we know where it goes and how it will end. He encourages looking around, left and right to see what there is, taking the less obvious dirt path instead of commercial concrete. Just because it hasn't been done before doesn't mean it is a bad idea: dare to venture onto untouched land.

Jack Weston, Year 13





# TATE MODERN

## Art - Tastic!

On October 20th, the Art learning tutors met a group of 41 students from Years 11 to 13 and we started our journey at 8am to London to visit the Tate Britain and Tate Modern Galleries. After a four hour drive by coach, we had many camera opportunities whilst touring the sights of the Capital such as the London Eye, Houses of Parliament and the famous Gherkin Building.

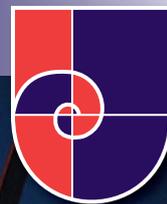
First we arrived at the Tate Britain and explored a variety of different pieces and artists. We all gained a lot from being able to see art work first hand and see the scale and textures ourselves. Whilst there, we had the fantastic opportunity to see the Turner and Masters' exhibition which was on display for a limited time only.

After lunch we all piled back on to the coach and travelled to the other side of the River Thames to visit the Tate Modern. Inside, thirty of us were lucky enough to be able to visit the Pop Life exhibition. The exhibit contained art works that pushed the boundaries of modern art, from Golden butterflies, to real life twins, graphic images and even a dead horse. Another controversial piece was by the famous artist Damien Hirst who presented a preserved dead lamb in a tank with golden hooves. Another attraction of the Tate Modern was an incredibly large iron crate in which you could stand and experience a pitch black environment.

We had a lot of fun and had so much to talk about on the way back. We couldn't wait to write in our sketchbooks about our amazing day in London.

Emily Barker and Beth Howard,  
Year 13





# JOYOUS MACHINES

## MICHAEL LANDY AND JEAN TINGUELY

# Mechanical Masterpieces

On the 24th of November we went to Tate Liverpool with our Year 12 BTEC Art class as part of our Mechanical Unit.

We left College at 8am and drove to Liverpool. When we arrived at the Tate Liverpool, we first explored the temporary exhibition of 'Joyous Machines' by Michael Landy and Jean Tinguely. Jean Tinguely was a Swiss artist who grew up in Basel and was fascinated by machinery. At the age of 12 he made his first mechanical creation which consisted of 30 small wheels which were placed in a stream with various objects connected to the rods by axles. As the water turned the wheels, an arm struck objects such as pots and tins. This is one of his most successful works.

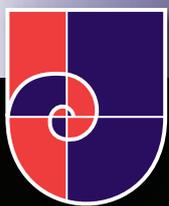
Michael Landy was another artist that created abstract drawings of Jean Tinguely's work that that we were lucky to see while we were at Tate Liverpool. When we were at the gallery we sketched some of Tinguely's work ourselves which was interesting and useful for our mechanical project. We also had the opportunity to look around the gallery which was useful for our other projects as we saw works by artist such as Mondrian and Picasso.

Our next stop on our visit was to see the John Moores prize-winners at the Walker gallery. The John Moores competition is open to artists working in the UK, it is an open submission competition, and a total of £458,350 has been given as prizes since 1957. The prize-winners are selected by a different jury each year and there are some truly fascinating works in the gallery. All of the art works we saw reflected the culture and period of time they were made as well as displaying feelings and opinions within the work.

Overall we had a very enjoyable day and we learnt a lot as well as getting inspiration from all of the art works that we had the chance to see: the day wouldn't have been complete without a group photo so that we could remember our visit.

Jessica Pegram and Zaima Begum, Year 12



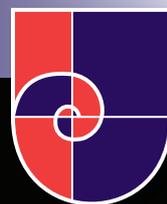


# Christmas Celebration

As the first snowflakes of winter began to gently fall, the theatre inside Landau Forte College was warmly buzzing with anticipation. Kayleigh Hardy strode confidently into the spotlight and delivered a powerful solo verse of *Once In Royal David's City*, followed closely by the Singers who lit up the stage with mesmerising intent. The performances throughout the evening were dedicated to Peter Shackleton, former Principal of the College, whose incredible vision and aspiration we carry forth today.

The inviting cocktail of treats included *No Surprises* from the Guitar Group, *Yellow* performed by the Guitar Group and Singers and a Cuban-esque twist by the Senior Dancers. There was also a Disney Medley from *Hoot 'n' Toot*, the classic theme from the *Snowman* by the Flooty Tooties and *The Ultimate Supremacy* performed by the Junior Dancers. In *Mad World* the Singers provided time for reflection and consideration for those in less fortunate situations. Our beginner instrumentalists performed *Jingle Bells* from memory and *Sticky Keys* punctuated the evening with several slick blasts and snorts.



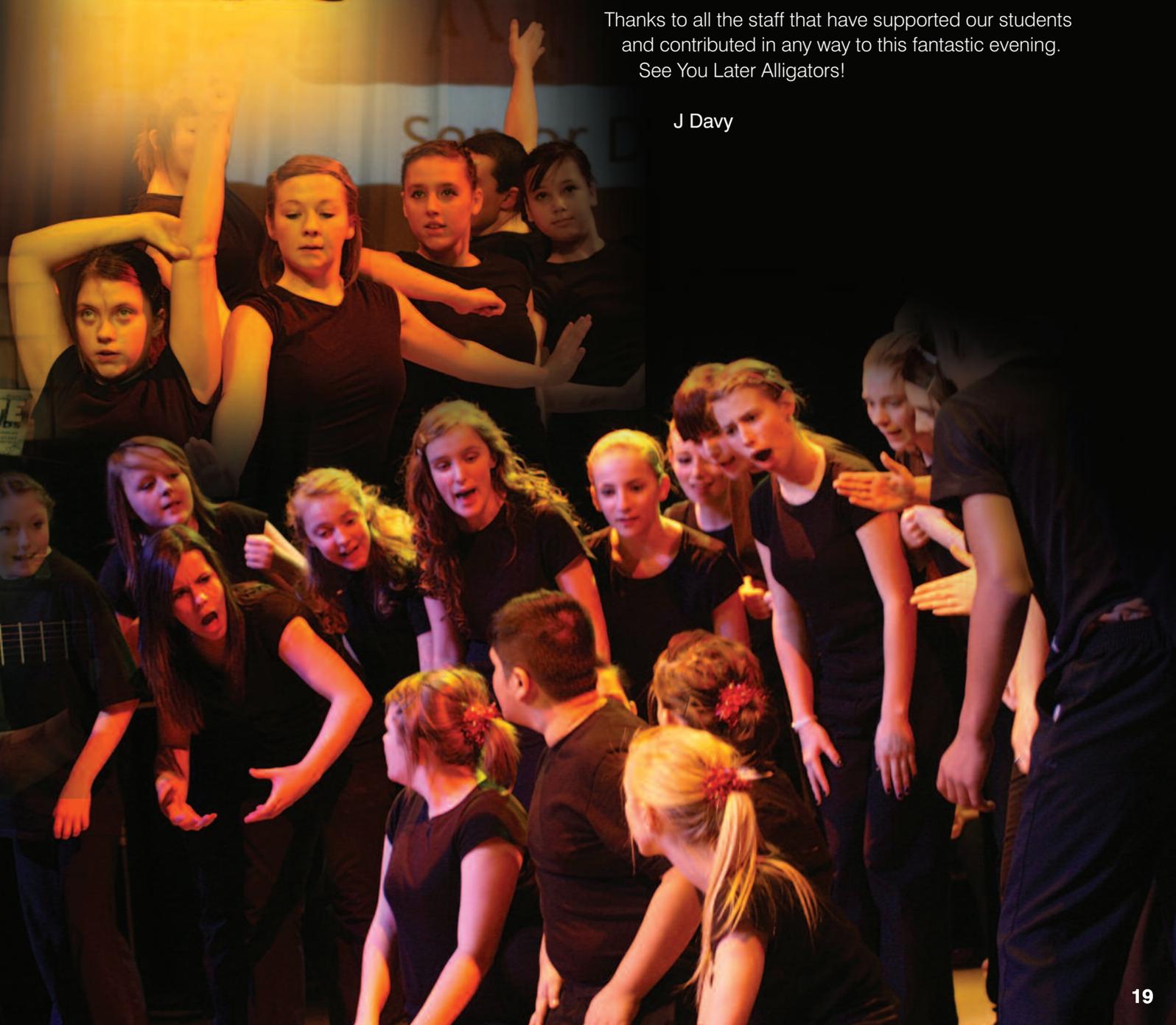


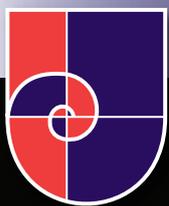
Rudolph was initially not made the most welcome at Santa's Grotto in the Year 10 pantomime this year. The Year 11 students collaborated in learning sessions and devised their own songs, which were hugely successful both in gathering and in the Christmas Celebration.

As a tutor it is very rewarding to see students enjoy the rehearsal process as well as the performance itself. Students have taken on different roles and responsibilities such as coaching others. The Year 10 students carried out Front of House duties effectively and ensured that the technology ran smoothly. Almost immediately after the first show we repeated it all over again for a new audience!

Thanks to all the staff that have supported our students and contributed in any way to this fantastic evening. See You Later Alligators!

J Davy





# Devised Work Competition

In November, the culmination of many hours of hard work and combined creativity came together to produce the Devised Work Competition 2009. Over 30 dance and drama groups auditioned for a part in the final and an opportunity to display their efforts and talents to students, friends and family.

Once again standards were extremely high with some inspired and original dance and drama performances. In dance we saw a range of performances taking inspiration from images and music with many performances from our younger students. The drama ranged from serious current affairs to individual interpretations of reality TV programmes, and of course; the 'Amuse at Ten'.

This year, and with many thanks, the Devised Work Competition was judged by two former students of the College: Esther Gunn and Jim Hendley. Both were extensively involved in extension activities whilst here at the College and both are still actively involved in the performing arts at degree level. Each judge commented on the impressive and focussed performances by the Landau Forte students, and the fantastic pieces created by all the finalists.

The Devised Work Competition is traditionally hosted by our Year 12 Performing Arts students which this year were Frances Martin and Elicia Redfern-Campbell: well done to them.

Whilst the judges were making their final decisions, Landau Forte Youth Dance performed two original contemporary dance pieces, The Ultimate Supremacy and Angels and Demons, devised and choreographed by Mrs Cresswell with the help of all the dancers.

Judging was tough with so many strong entrants, but finally the awards were decided upon. The winners were:

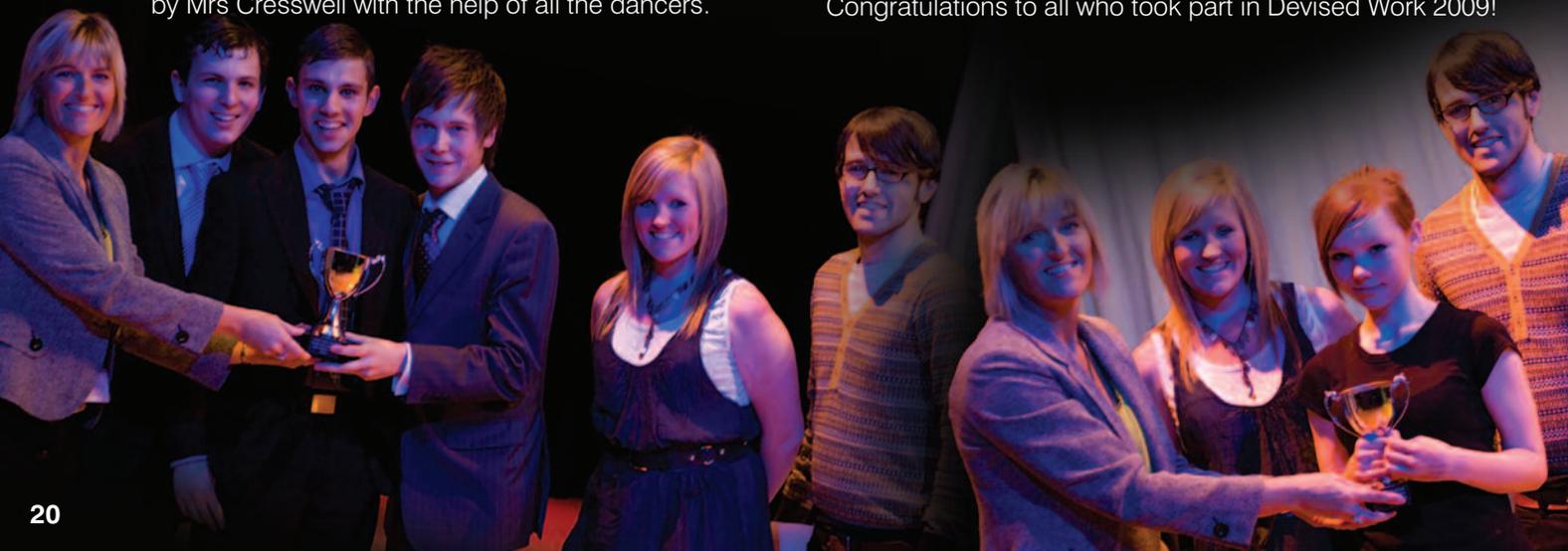
Most Original Piece of Dance:  
**Lauren Monaghan, Nicola Caley and Laura Corden**

Most Original Piece of Drama:  
**Adam Horvath, Billy Gadsby and Jonathon Levers**

Outstanding Performance in Dance: **Rose Martin**  
Outstanding Performance in Drama: **Lydia Wormsley**

As always, events like the Devised Work Competition would not be possible without the help and hard work of everyone behind the scenes. We would like to thank Front of House, Box Office, and the Year 12 Techies for their support once again.

Congratulations to all who took part in Devised Work 2009!





# Fixture Review: Boys

## Basketball

The Year 7 Basketball team has performed well in their tournaments at Noel Baker finishing third, second and third in their leagues respectively. The Year 8 Basketball team performed similarly at their tournaments at Noel Baker and Woodlands, finishing second, third and third respectively. The Year 9 team narrowly lost their opening fixture 38-37 despite a good performance against a strong West Park side. Unfortunately they also lost to St Benedict's 61-39. They are looking forward to their next fixture against Littleover. The Year 10 team unfortunately lost their first two fixtures against West Park and St Benedict's, but feel confident going into their next fixtures against Littleover and Lees Brook. Finally, the Year 11 team has won their opening Derby City League fixture against Littleover 50-28, and has also progressed to the quarter finals of the Derbyshire County Cup after beating Frederick Gent 51-43. Unfortunately they finished third in their National League group and did not progress to the knock-out stages despite some good performances.

Thanks go to Mark Woodhouse from Derby Trailblazers for his coaching of the teams and players.

## Football

At the half-way stage of the Derby City leagues, the Year 7 team is in 7th position, the Year 8 team is currently in 4th position, and the Year 9 team is also sitting in 4th position. The Year 10s are currently in 2nd position, whilst the Year 11 team is in 5th. In addition, the Year 8s, Year 10s, and Year 11s are still in the Cup competition. A good start to the season.

## Futsal

The College entered a Year 7 Boys and Year 8 Boys team in the new Derby City Futsal Competition. Both teams performed well but did not qualify for the County Finals.

## Tennis

Four of our Post-16 students are representing Landau Forte in the Aegon Tennis Tournament. The boys have played two matches and successfully made it through to the next round which they will play in late January. Well done to Dean Fletcher, Sam West, Chris Ruston and Tom Buckner.



# Fixture Review: Girls

## Gymnastics

In November, six students from Landau Forte College competed at Lancaster Sports Centre at the Derby City Gymnastics competition for Key Stages 3 and 4. All students performed very well and had to complete a routine, a vault and a body management section. Catherine Harper, Year 11, successfully gained a place with the Derby West Gymnastics team and will undergo training sessions at Landau Forte College in preparation for February's County Final.

## Trampolining

In December, a Derby West Trampolining competition was held at Landau Forte College. This was the first Trampolining competition to be held across Derby with the aim of increasing participation rates within this activity and recognising individual performances at competition level. Judges and officials were organised to judge the 3 sections of a set routine, set skills and body management. Out of the 35 competitors that were present from Derby West schools, 5 Landau Forte students successfully achieved a place at the City Final. If our students are successful they will then move on to the County Final. These girls were Hannah Parker, Olivia Tataryn, Sophie Mee - Bishop, Katherine Stewart and Nuala Kelly: well done!

## Girls' Football

The Girls' Football teams have all made excellent starts to the season. The Year 7 team made it through to the Semi-final of the Derby City West competition in November, and after a tense game and extra time, they unfortunately lost to Chellaston. The Under 14 girls remain in a strong position in their league in addition to the Under 16 team who have also made a solid start.

## Netball

The Under 14 and Under 16 Netball teams have made progress in the new leagues and have produced some good results. The girls' commitment to training in poor weather has been excellent in preparation for the City tournaments in the New Year.

## Cricket

Year 9 female students have had the opportunity to attend Cricket Coaching during their PE sessions at the Gateway Centre in Derby. The coaching was led by Derbyshire County Cricket Club to promote the extension programme in Term 3. The students learnt about the basic skills and techniques for throwing, bowling and fielding and put them all into practice in games. The extension slot, which will also be led by Derbyshire County Cricket Club, begins in week 4 of Term 3.





# Sports News

## Young Athletics Officiating Award

Our Year 10 and Year 11 OCR National in Sport students completed the Young Athletics Officiating course in October held at the College and run by UK Athletics. This involved the students developing their officiating skills in athletics to the standard required to assist in competitions. This will assist with their GCSE course.



## Gymnastics Officiating Award

In November, our Year 10 and Year 11 OCR National in Sport students completed a Gymnastics Officiating course held at the College and run by England Gymnastics. This involved the students developing their officiating skills in trampolining to the standard required to assist in competitions. This will again help them with their GCSE course, as well as providing them with another qualification.

## DEDA Visit

Twelve Year 8 students were selected to attend a taster Dance session at DEDA in December 2009. The students were selected having shown potential and talent in Dance. The session focused on creative Dance pieces with students devising their own motifs around a car advert made by Honda. Students had to use the different dynamics from the footage in their dance piece, which included twists, rolls and turns. The students involved were Bethan Burton, Bethany Mosley, Heather Knight, Dominic Spurling, Thandazani Mguni, Ryan Higgins, George Scattergood, Phoebe Lees, Emily Fletcher, Emily Woodward, Bradley Naylor and Reece Limbert. Comments included: "it was really educational and a good experience to have been part of. We learnt how to explore different styles of dance and devise our own pieces," George Scattergood and Thandazani Mguni.



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**Editor:**

C Adams

**Principal:**

E Coffey

**Student Contributors:**

Christopher Arran  
 Emily Barker  
 Oruna Begum  
 Zaima Begum  
 Lindsey Bowler  
 Emily Christian  
 Emily Edwards  
 Kayten Girn  
 Beth Howard  
 Alexander Jeffrey  
 Luke Maskrey

Jon McGovern  
 Zoe McLoughlin  
 Mandida Mhondoro  
 Irene Micco  
 Vinay Mistry  
 Thandiwe Mwanza  
 Jessica Pegram  
 Hajra Shakoor  
 Eleanor Shervill  
 Olivia Stillwell  
 Jack Terry

Rebecca Turton  
 Nick Ward  
 Katherine Welsh  
 Jack Weston  
 Katie Williams

**Staff Contributors:**

K Bellamy  
 L Cheese  
 E Coffey  
 J Davy  
 N Dobson  
 V Ellis  
 C Holme  
 S Owen  
 R Sokolowskyj  
 D Taylor  
 L Wahid  
 S Whiteley  
 Zhang L