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Spring 2015

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Principal's Message

New Year: New Opportunities

It's been another very busy period at the College and a feature over recent weeks has been the number of visitors who have come to look at how we do things.

The icing on the cake came in late February when the College was designated as a National Teaching School. The second half of the academic year promises to be no less eventful; our key focus is undoubtedly to support our students who are on the home run to their course completion and public examinations. We look forward to celebrating their success in due course.



National Leader of Education

Mrs Coffey has been designated as a National Leader of Education and the College as a National Support School. Previously Mr Whiteley, (former Chief Executive) was also a National Leader of Education and the College a National Support School.

National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Winners of National Video Competition

If you haven't seen our video Learning at Landau - it is still available to view on our website:

www.landau-forte.org.uk/about/the-college/

The video (made by the Student Council) was the winner of the SSAT National Competition which invited students to create a digital record of how their school helps to prepare them for life in the 21st Century. As part of the prize which included £100, the four minute video was shown at the SSAT National Conference to a packed auditorium of five hundred delegates from around the country in December.





A Minister Calls...

Nick Gibb, Minister for Education Reform visited the College on 18 February to look at our extensive Extension and Enrichment Programme. The Minister was very impressed with the number and quality of activities that he saw which included: Science WOW, Debating, Performing Arts, Sports, Product Design & Engineering, Masterclasses, Young Enterprise and Mandarin Chinese - all of which were routinely scheduled to take place.



SSAT inquire inspire innovate impact



Chief Executive SSAT Visit

Sue Williamson and Tony Bloxham, Chief Executive and Designate of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust visited the College in February following our success at the SSAT National Conference. Their visit included discussions with groups of students and Sue's letter of thanks commented that the students were:

"Articulate, warm: remarkably clear on their aspirations and ambitions; resilient; determined and full of character. All were wonderful ambassadors for the College."

Learning Quality

Following assessment in November, the College has become the first secondary school in the UK to achieve a Gold Award - Learning Quality Mark in association with the Centre for Real-World Learning.

This Award forms part of our ongoing work on Enhancing Learning Programme; helping young people to develop learning habits that will support them to become independent and successful learners for the 21st Century.



Irish Headteachers Learning To Learn

Twenty two delegates from The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) Ireland visited the College in January to develop their understanding of Coaching Culture and Effective Learning behaviours. Our Student Learning Coaches led workshops.



"Everyone we met, staff and students alike were a real credit to Landau Forte."

Barry O'Callaghan

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Lara Minkus
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Ellie Spare



National Teaching School
designated by



**National College for
Teaching & Leadership**

Stop Press We are a National Teaching School!

The College has been selected as a National Teaching School by the National College for Teaching and Leadership. Mrs Coffey, (now a National Leader of Education) said "Teaching Schools take a leading role in recruiting and training new entrants to the profession, identifying leadership potential and providing support for other schools."

Introduced in 2011, Teaching Schools are all rated as 'Outstanding'. They work with partner schools in an alliance to ensure high quality school-led initial teacher training and professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career.

They raise standards through supporting other schools, engage in research and development and ensure that the most talented school leaders

are spotted and supported to become successful headteachers. Mrs Coffey also said: "We are delighted with this news as it is an acknowledgment of the work we have been doing over a number of years. Alongside our designation as a School Centre for Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) last May, this ensures we are well placed to make a significant contribution to training and supporting the next generation of teachers. Being a Teaching School will strengthen the partnerships we have already established in Derby and we look forward to working with local schools as part of the Alliance."

Charlie Taylor, the Chief Executive of NCTL, said: "Landau Forte College should be very proud of this achievement. The school has been recognised as a centre of excellence in its area, with an outstanding

performance and a track record of raising standards through supporting other schools.

There are now more than six hundred and fifty Teaching Schools around the country. They are at the heart of an increasingly school-led system, leading the way in improving the quality of our teachers and helping the schools in their partnership to become even better. Like Teaching Hospitals, they have become centres of excellence across the country, conducting research and training teachers."

Another milestone on the Landau Forte Journey, but there is no stopping here.

E Coffey

Becoming a Baroness

On Thursday 13 November 2014, the Leader of the House of Lords, The Rt Hon Baroness Stowell of Beeston MBE, paid Landau Forte College a very special visit. She was accompanied by Amanda Solloway from Derby Conservatives.

As a future undergraduate Politics student, I was asked to be take part in the day's events. Baroness Stowell arrived at midday and before being given a tour of the College, she gave a motivational talk to selected post-16 students. The subject of her talk was her rise from a being a sales assistant at Birds to receiving a peerage in 2011, before being appointed the Leader of the House of Lords in 2014. She spoke very engagingly about her successful work life in what always has been, (and still is) a man's world.

Following her talk, Baroness Stowell was given a tour of the College and was most impressed by the College's ethos and state-of-the art facilities. The visit ended in the Conference Suite where Year 12 Parliament Week contestants were given the opportunity to get expert tips for their hustings and debates, which were set to take place the following week.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Baroness Stowell and listening to her as she reaffirmed my view that with determination and hard work anyone can achieve, regardless of gender and inequalities.

Lena Kuckei, Year 13



Photo from www.huffingtonpost.co.uk



Engineering Education

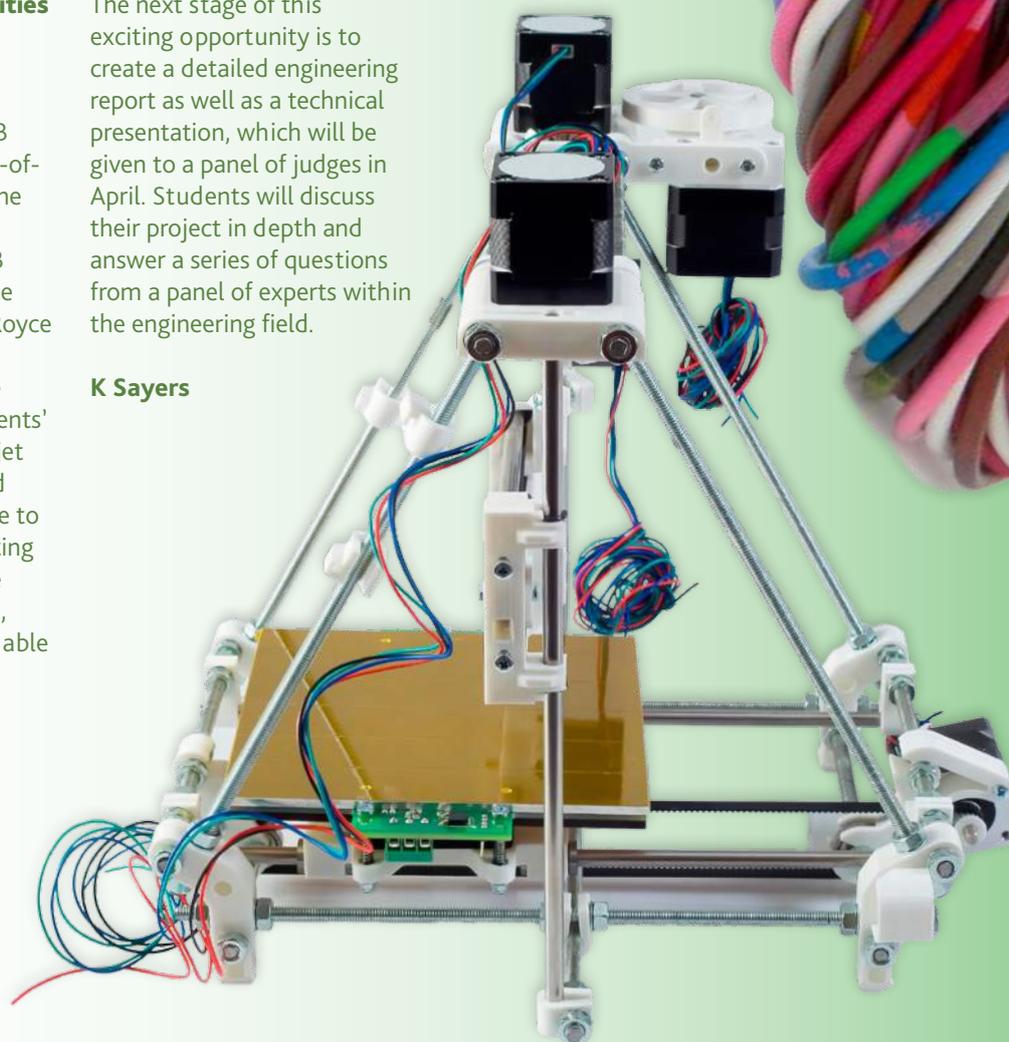
On 16 December 2014, seven post-16 students (accompanied by Mrs Sayers) went to Loughborough University for an intensive three-day-long workshop. This event was organised by the Engineering Education Scheme and allowed the students to take advantage of the outstanding facilities available from this top class university.

Students working with JCB were able to use the state-of-the-art 3D printing machine to test a scaled down fan designed to be used in JCB excavators. Meanwhile, the team working with Rolls-Royce undertook some intensive work on a computer game designed to increase students' understanding of a turbo jet engine. Both teams agreed that having dedicated time to work purely on these exciting projects was very valuable as well as being very tiring, saying; "It was great to be able

to focus on the project without the distractions of normal college life" (Michael Wright). The students were able to experience the highs and lows of a genuine engineering project, as well as overcoming unexpected issues such as technical failures and electrical failings.

The next stage of this exciting opportunity is to create a detailed engineering report as well as a technical presentation, which will be given to a panel of judges in April. Students will discuss their project in depth and answer a series of questions from a panel of experts within the engineering field.

K Sayers





Future Proof

On Thursday 22 January 2015, three students and I had an exciting opportunity to go on a visit to Microsoft in London. Whilst there, we had the chance to participate in discussions and group activities with a focus on technology, how it has changed and how it is continuing to evolve.

We started the day with warm up challenges that we were set to test our knowledge as well as creating competition with other schools around the UK. We then moved on to the main objective of the day which was to research the impact of changes in technology and the world of work on education and the young people of today. We looked at how College could help

students to prepare for the world of work from both their perspectives as well as a business viewpoint.

From our research, we discovered that a lot of life at Landau is already geared towards preparing us for university and work as the College ethos encourages the learning habits that businesses seek in their staff.

As the day come to a close, each of the teams presented their ideas to a panel of judges, which is when we received excellent feedback on our research and forward thinking, in addition to great praise for the College. It was a very long day but a great experience.

Siddiqua Khandia, Year 13



Girls into Engineering



A team of six Year 8 students represented the College in the Faraday STEM challenge run by the Institute of Engineering and Technology at Derby Moor Community Sports College on 3rd December. A STEM challenge is a cross-curricular activity day that covers Science, Design & Technology, Engineering and Mathematics where students have to research, design and make a solution to an engineering problem. The students had no idea what their challenge was before the day so could not prepare in advance.

The challenge we were given was to make a beacon to communicate information to cyclists, such as bad weather conditions, road blockages

or traffic. The outer shell of the beacon was made from 3D printed plastic that we designed on a computer using 3D design software.

Unfortunately our electronic circuit was slightly too large to fit in the shell that we had 3D-printed for the beacon therefore we were unable to complete the task on the day. We later resolved the problem and our prototype proved that it could deliver the information to cyclists.

It was a very enjoyable day and the challenge introduced us to new ideas and products as well as the many uses of 3D printing.

Niall Oswald, Year 8



Enterprising Minds

Young Enterprise is the United Kingdom's largest business and enterprise education charity and since 1993, Landau Forte College Derby's Year 12 students have been participating in the annual competition. Young people from across the UK have the opportunity to create a product within a team and work together in order to found and run an actual business, under the Young Enterprise

umbrella. Skills such as leadership, creativity, and teamwork are sharpened along the eight month journey.

This year's five-man team, (called Evergreen) decided to create a recipe book aimed at people with specific dietary requirements. So far we've learned that business is not as simple as merely imagining a product and watching the money roll in, but requires dedication to perfecting the idea even when there seem to be challenges. Our idea to create the recipe book seemed wonderful on paper and originally everyone agreed

it was simple enough to do but even a simple idea like a recipe book brought many hurdles our way. Although collecting the recipes was fairly enjoyable and straightforward, finding the correct type of paper was a major frustration. Once the correct type of paper was identified, formatting the pages and finding the correct type of printing method was the next hurdle. Although difficulties have been encountered, the team has learned from our mistakes and adapted to problems well.

**Rodwell Ndengeya,
Year 12**



The Art of Castle-Making

Once again, Year 7 students took part in the History team's Castle Competition with the judging day held in the Information Centre on Thursday 22 January. There was an incredible selection of castles made from materials as diverse as cardboard, paper- mache and even one built using a tablet on Minecraft for the first time!

The imagination and skills that were used to create the final masterpieces and the historical accuracy showed that students had extensive knowledge on a variety of castle designs and details. Mrs Coffey and last year's winners, Zoe Marshall and Jordyn

Seaton had the tough challenge of judging the winners. All were very impressed that students had included many features that they had been studying in History, such as 'crenellations', 'murder holes' and 'concentric towers'.

First place for the 'Square Keep' castle was James Dark, with Grace Hornby and Sydney Castledine in second place. Jenisha Chauhan came first for the 'Motte and Bailey' category with Millie-Jo Geraghty in second place. 'Highly Commended' went to Maria Varney, Mia Stephens, and Josh Barber.

Other students taking part with equally commendable entries were: Tushar Kumar, Charlotte Juffs and Leah Taylor, Jay Garside, Tabitha Hartshorn, and Howyin Li.

Huge congratulations to all the students who created these fantastic castles! All participants were awarded during Gathering with certificates and credits. In addition to this, book vouchers were presented to the winners. Yet another creative castle building year!

R Taylor





LANDAU
FORTE
COLLEGE
DERBY

Alumni

Student Alumni - A Reflection

I was a student at Landau Forte College from 2002-2009 where I studied Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Geography for my A-Levels. I then went to Durham University to study Mathematics and graduated in 2013. I now work for Deloitte LLP where I am studying to become a fully qualified Chartered Accountant.

I can honestly say that my time at Landau Forte was the best time of my life and you probably won't realise until you leave just how great a place it is! One of the greatest things I missed when I went to University was the extension activities; particularly Singers. Despite the numerous societies which are on offer at University, there was nothing that could compare or even come close to what we had at Singers on a Wednesday evening with your friends and Mr Coffey's renditions of "My Boy Lollipop."

University was also a lot of fun but I know I would not have had the experience I had without the grounding from College. You suddenly feel very alone; there is no longer a safety net, you are away from home and you are

very much independent and left to your own devices. But you get out what you give in. You have to throw yourself into anything and everything and I feel that Landau Forte gave me that mentality and the confidence to come out my shell from an early age.

When I applied to University (and Deloitte for that matter), I had very little work experience. However, the stories I could tell from College; whether through the projects I was involved in or the after school activities and educational visits I went on helped me stand out from the crowd and get me to where I am today.

My advice would be: work hard, play hard. College will flash by in a blink of an eye and before you know it will be over. You don't want any regrets. It forms the foundations to your career and life and I would take every opportunity it throws at you. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without the support I have had from the staff and the memories I have made.

Charlotte Hampton



Student Alumni

Travels & Work Experience

One of the ongoing joys of working at Landau Forte College is welcoming back former students to hear of their successes and experiences since leaving us. Last December, in addition to our annual Former Year 13 Awards Evening, we also hosted three former students who visited us having recently returned from very different, but nonetheless equally captivating, gap years.

All three former students spoke with palpable enthusiasm of their recent experiences but were also keen to give objective and honest advice on all aspects of their travels to a group of interested Post-16 students. Admissions, such as not having had access to hot water for a year and no longer being willing to eat rice were balanced by numerous photographs and heartfelt stories which will obviously last a lifetime.

Both Nuala Kelly and Joanna Wallace arranged their gap year with the Project Trust; this is an Educational Volunteering Charity which sends approximately three hundred school-leavers overseas every year to work in teaching, social care and Outward Bound projects across Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Nuala worked within a team of instructors at an outdoor education centre in Malaysia whilst Joanna worked as a teacher in India. Both strongly felt that their experiences had been enriched by immersing themselves in the local culture; learning to speak a little of the local language and becoming 'culturally aware' proved highly beneficial in the transition from being a western teenager to the very different expectations of them from their new environment.

Aggie Milner had spent the previous year travelling extensively across South East Asia and Australia, kindly finding time to keep some of her former tutors in awe of some truly spectacular pictures! Whilst Aggie spoke warmly of the many new friends she had made and the vast number of different places she had visited, she admitted that this style of gap year invariably meant she became less involved in local communities.





In addition to the expected stories of unusual diets and taking care with potentially dangerous wildlife, words of caution were also offered to the current Post-16 students for the need for organisation and flexibility in planning such trips, particularly in terms of the financial demands and the necessity to have savings instantly available in case of emergency.

Feedback from the students suggested that this had been highly informative. Alimah Nadim (Year 12) stated that,

"The students that presented their gap year experiences seemed to gain so much from taking a break from education with experiences that were all unique in their own way. The only downside towards a gap year would appear to be the cost of the travel, but I have learnt that the experience is seen to be worth it".

All three former students have now entered higher education but appeared to have been well and truly bitten by the travel bug! We look forward to hearing of their future experiences.

A T Delbridge



Political Power

On 19 November, several of our Year 12 students attended the Parliament Week competition held at Derby Cathedral, hosted by the Bishop of Derby. Students across the city were challenged to create their own political party and manifesto to answer the question "What matters to Young People?" As part of the Core Programme, those following the Politics pathway took up this challenge.

As part of their research, students had to investigate their own political beliefs in order to work collaboratively with others to produce a party name, logo and set of three policies. The first round of the competition came after submitting these entries. The College submitted two entries, with the 'Free Party' winning one of the three places in the final that took place in Derby Cathedral.

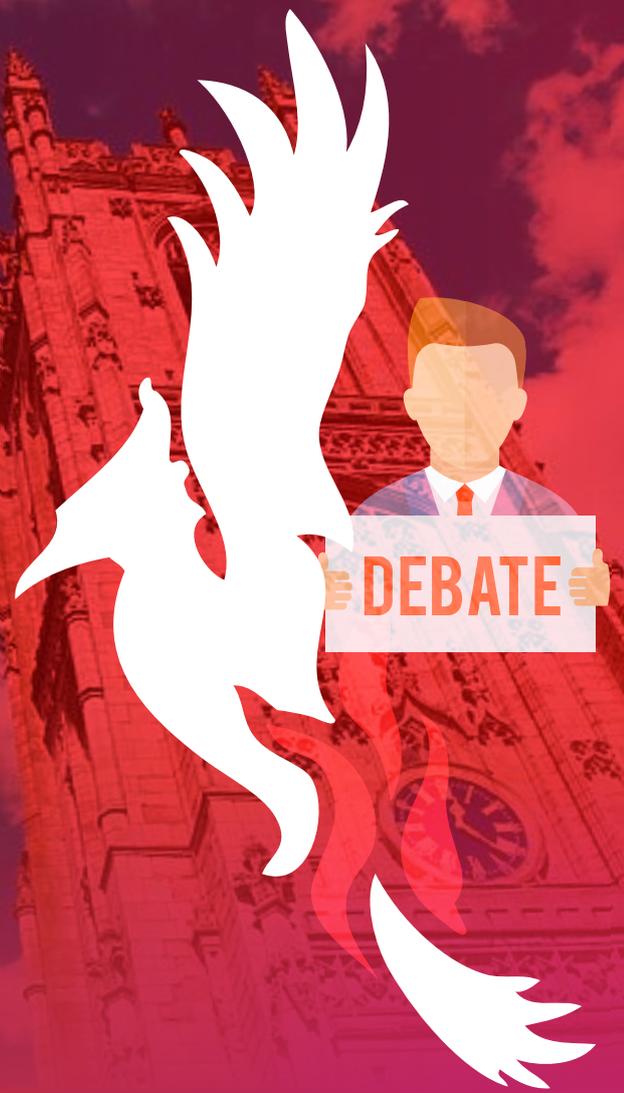
J Burton

Inspired by conservative views, our group of four created 'The Free Party'. Our policies centred on the conservation of the NHS, more affordable university fees and improving retirement schemes. Once submitted, we were chosen as one of the three finalist parties, which required us to develop our party further by creating a short video clip to endorse our values and policies, which was filmed around the College site.

During the election questions from the floor were directed, as well as from opposing parties. Once the votes were counted, our party came in third.

Overall, this experience has helped to broaden our knowledge and exploration of general politics, as well as giving us an insight as to how the electoral system functions.

Bethany Cooper, Year 12



Buzzing with Spelling Enthusiasm!

Year 7 students had the opportunity to compete in the Foreign Language Spelling Bee which consists of four stages: class, school, regional and national. The Spelling Bee is an excellent opportunity for students to improve their language and literacy skills and the students took to it with great enthusiasm!



Earlier in the term, Mrs Holding organised the German and Spanish Spelling Bees in which all Year 7 students participated with the aim of representing the College in the grand finale.

During the class stage, students were given fifty words in German or Spanish to learn but there was a catch: they had to not only learn to spell the word, but also to spell it using the alphabet of the language that they study! The competing students were given just one minute to spell as many correct words in Spanish or German as they could. Those who got through to the school stage were given an extra fifty words and the competition began again!

Other Year 7 students flowed in to support their friends and the atmosphere was incredible.

After some fierce competition, four winners emerged: Holly Robinson and Bilal Idrees (German) and Maria Varney and Aryan Kaushal (Spanish). They will be representing the College at the regional final in Corby, Northamptonshire in the Spring Term and we wish them the best of luck. Mrs Holding has high hopes for the students stating "We hope to get our students through to the national final for the fifth time in a row" and that "She couldn't be prouder of all of Year 7 for their hard work and dedication".

R Marshall
Velkommen!



Coaching Challenge

In November, Year 8 took part in a series of exciting workshops that encouraged them to explore, challenge and develop their understanding of coaching. Led by Miss O'Mara, Mr Green and Miss Noble, the Year 8 students spent an hour working in groups considering how coaching could be utilised to make them more effective learners. As a precursor to Trade Fair, the sessions highlighted the importance of collaborative skills and encouraged them to look at the way in which effective questioning can be used as a tool for deepening understanding and overcoming barriers.

Supported by post-16 Student Learning Coaches, they completed a series of activities designed to allow them to explore and discover how coaching can become a part of their everyday learning habits. Critiquing a coaching session delivered by older students; overcoming a challenging Mathematics problem through discussion and guiding each other to achieve a target whilst blindfolded are just three examples of techniques used to hone coaching skills.

By using these techniques, they developed their listening skills and were encouraged to navigate their way around problems supporting each other to find solutions rather than being given answers. The post-16 Student Learning Coaches have

participated in and organised a range of events that have heightened their own proficiency in this skill and were therefore perfectly placed to support the younger students in their own exploration of this learning habit. Coaching is an important ideology in learning as it emphasises the importance of resolving problems independently with the coach acting as a tool for reflection and self-analysis. This obviously requires an impressive level of maturity and the Year 8 students rose to the challenge impressively. Listening closely to each other and demonstrating the ability to be insightful and supportive, the students improved life skills needed in all types of employment.

The workshops were designed to give the students the foundations with which they could then build on as they moved towards their Trade Fair event.

C Noble



Christmas Celebrations!

The Landau Forte College Christmas Celebration was a jam-packed evening of entertainment, with performances from singers, band, dancers, guitarists, The Belle Ayres (Year 13), Blazerz, and Years 10, 11 and 12!

The lights went down, the audience fell silent and the evening of music, dance and drama began! Jordan Toal set the mood on the acoustic guitar, building the suspense as Freya Primrose took centre stage for the opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. The duet enchanted the audience with a beautiful performance, playing and singing with great control and focus. Then from behind the audience, the singers came onto the stage carrying lanterns, the band kicked off, and Jordan delivered the modern arrangement with passion and attitude.

As the climax of the piece approached, the harmonies climbed; raising the hairs on the audience's necks and the Christmas Celebration was open to an electric start! Music and dance filled the rest of the first half with high energy performances including 'Happy', 'Smoke on the Water', 'Jailhouse Rock' and 'Rock Around the Clock'. The guitarists serenaded the audience with an arrangement of 'Walking in the Air' and Year 11 Performing Arts students showcased songs and dances they had created in collaboration with the two art forms that portrayed the concept of 'This Blue Earth'. The band then played out the audience with Bernstein's classic 'The Great Escape'.

The second half commenced with 'Aby's War'; an original, deep, thought-provoking piece of theatre produced by the Year 13 Performing Arts

students. The piece followed a true story about a young soldier called Aby Bevestein, whose future was doomed from his start in Poland, joining the British Army too young and then being shot for desertion; the tension in the theatre could have been cut with a knife!

Reaching into the audiences' hearts, a moving monologue from 'The Wier' was performed by Molly Coffey, winner of Dramatic Monologue of the Year. Terrienne Lloyd-Jones, winner of Senior Vocalist of the Year performed a beautiful rendition of 'With You' and Isabelle Moss showcased her talent on the Clarinet as Senior Musical Performer of the Year followed by a lightening of mood with some comedy from the Year 10 Panto. A night jam-packed full of variety, entertainment and talent! A massive well done to all involved!

Nick Ward



With You

GHOST

THE MUSIC

TERRIANNE LLOYD

SENIOR VOCALIST

Sweet Sound Of Success..

Congratulations to the following students in their recent instrumental examinations! We would like to thank Mr K Holdgate (Brass) and Mrs C Hampton (Woodwind) for their continuous hard work and support with instrumental lessons.



Isabelle Moss (Year 11)

Clarinet; Grade 7 Distinction

Edward Rose (Year 9)

Clarinet; Grade 2 Distinction

Eve Waterhouse (Year 8)

Trumpet; Grade 3 Merit

Kathryn Watkins (Year 8)

Trumpet; Grade 3 Pass

Amy Phelps (Year 8)

Flute; Grade 1 Pass



Senior Citizen's Festive Cheer!

With guests arriving in just a few hours, Year 12 students set to work transforming the theatre for what has become a joyous event for the wider community. Tables were decorated, mics were checked and catering was ready to go, as the trained Student Council on Front of House stood by to give a warm welcome and take the guests' coats as they arrived. The guests were not disappointed as they were served food and drink at their table and entertained by an array of the College's talent; ranging from fun pantomimes by Year 10, to slick and well-polished

songs from our A Level students. Guest's comments included:

"I look forward to this every year", and "I definitely want to come next year, I am going to tell all my friends."

So good luck to next year's organisers; this event goes from strength to strength! Well done to the Year 12 students who put the programme together. Landau Forte College in the community - at its best!

A Wrampling





Pulling Their Black 'Sox' Up

Who knew that seven girls and a guitarist could provide Derby with such a diverse and incredible array of performance?

With both a singing ensemble, aptly named the 'Belle Ayres' and a theatre company, 'Black Sox Theatre Productions' performers really could take on the world (but they decided Derby would be a suitable starting place, naturally). The Landau Forte students really have set out to engage and inspire audiences; a goal which has been much achieved. The vocal group offers a range of voices and styles, from folk and pop to blues and country; the mix of vocals provides a blissful performance experience pleasing to any ear. You may have seen them busk for Children in Need, or enchant the Derby Christmas Light switch on, either way, their

impressive skill set is one to be admired which is evident in some wonderful feedback given by members of the viewing public.

Perhaps the most awe-inspiring work that these students provide is through telling real life stories with the use of contemporary, physical gesture. 'Aby's War' provided audiences with the moving story of a young soldier who, completely scathed and scared from the impact of war, was cruelly and wrongly sentenced to death on account of cowardice. Again, for Derby's Holocaust Memorial, they performed a piece highlighting how both a child's innocence and mother's strength can be challenged in the most sickening of circumstances. With both the singing ensemble and the theatre company, 'Black Sox Theatre Productions' are truly something magnificent.

Isobel Davidson, Year 13





Girls Engineering the Future

After a very successful enrichment day in June 2014 led by the Small Piece Trust and supported by volunteer mentors from Rolls Royce, twenty Year 10 girls have been working in small teams every week to design, model and build prototypes of different power generators. 'Girls Engineering the Future' is a two year scheme where girls with an interest in a career within Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics are coached and mentored to access these currently male-dominated areas.

Having successfully completed the first stage of the project, the next challenge is to create stop motion animations investigating life as a female engineer. For this the girls will be interviewing engineers, designing, creating, filming and editing their animations whilst developing their collaboration, planning and interpersonal skills. As this programme is designed to support the students right through to Post-16, the next stages include a residential visit to The Outward Bounds Trust in Aberdovey and a 'Careers Club.' This will allow students the opportunities

to talk to women at different stages in various careers, as well as providing one-to-one mentoring regarding work experience, CVs and applications to colleges, universities and apprenticeships.

The programme so far has offered the girls an enjoyable and engaging insight into potential careers and will continue to do so throughout Year 10 and 11. They have all been a credit to Landau Forte College, impressing leaders and mentors from Rolls Royce with their inspiring ideas and endless enthusiasm.

F Huskisson



100 Years of Aerospace Excellence



This year, Rolls Royce celebrates one hundred years of aero excellence in Derby. It was therefore a great privilege for twenty Year 7 students to be invited to represent the College at the first of a number of events designed to mark this special occasion.

The morning began at the Learning and Development Centre with a series of hands-on activities led by Rolls Royce STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Ambassadors. Students collaborated together to learn the principles of 3D printing, were challenged to assemble a model jet engine in the quickest time possible, and used iPads and an augmented reality app to get inside the latest Trent XWB engine to discover how it worked. Students kept the STEM ambassadors busy with their curiosity and excellent questioning!

Next, Eric Schultz (President of Civil Large Engines), delivered an inspiring speech to an audience comprising of retired Rolls Royce engineers, apprentices currently training and our students, symbolising the past, present and future. Mr Schultz spoke on doing those things which are in your heart as well as his passion for engineering, fostered from an early age.

It was then time to officially open the new-look Heritage Centre, a large museum telling the story of how Rolls and Royce came together to form the company we have in Derby today. Ben Mbale was given the important task of cutting the ribbon, and the centre was declared open. The very first motor cars, now worth many millions of pounds, were on display through to the latest jet engine found on the Dreamliner planes towering many metres high. It was fascinating to look around.

The local newspaper, radio and television covered the event which added to the excitement of the visit, and students jumped at the chance of being interviewed. Students impressed everyone by their enthusiasm and way in which they represented the College.

Rolls-Royce is a world class company which provides many apprenticeship and employment opportunities to young people. It was fantastic to share in their celebrations and I hope some of our Year 7 students will have been inspired to pursue a future in engineering.

D Bloomfield





Renovating Learning Spaces

In Design and Technology, we are transforming the spaces you use for learning into more modern, accessible and enjoyable spaces to be in. Last year, we began to transform T8B into a brand new textiles room. This space now allows students to work in a clean and modern way and is not only used for Textiles but also for Graphic Design and model making.

The room is now brighter and lighter and has been adapted so that students can easily access the new set of sewing machines. GCSE Textiles is now up and running and the feedback from students is that it a great course and the room is a space that they want to come and work in. We are hoping to start a Fashion and Textiles course at Post-16 level next year which will be a fantastic opportunity for students who are hoping

to pursue a career in the creative industries to come and get involved!

T8A has just had an overhaul and students now have a much livelier and more spacious room to use for their D&T work. We have created areas where students can carry out group work and specific areas for practical work. This is available for all students to use. This learning space offers a great

environment for Post-16 Engineers and Designers to use during their study sessions. Plans to develop the space further and get students involved in decorating the wall spaces with great design work are already underway, along with new competitions to get students involved with these designs. **Watch this space!**

L Smith



Sidney Wilson

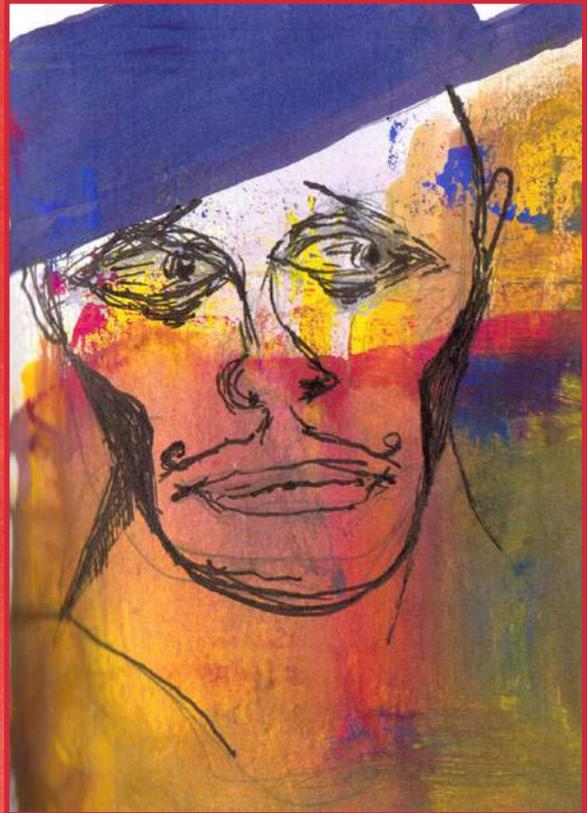
A Level Art Student

I particularly like figurative art and illustration. My main influences are artists Egon Schiele, Paul Klee and the Liverpool artist Mike Lawson. I first got to hear about Schiele when I received a post card from Vienna and I was really inspired by the tortured figures and amazing use of colour.

A visit to the Tate Modern last year got me working in my sketch book at the spectacular Paul Klee exhibition which was highly acclaimed in the media. Klee's surprisingly small paintings are like little worlds in themselves. Mike Lawson is a friend of my father. They met at the Royal College of Art; his work has given me lots of ideas in depicting crowded interiors such as pubs, coffee shops and clubs during the 70's and 80's in working class Liverpool.

I have recently become interested in print making since doing a work placement at the University of Derby and am looking forward to developing this further in my Art sessions.





Begin Again

Imagine living in a foreign country without your friends, struggling with the language and knowing literally no one. To most of us, that sounds like a nightmare, but for me was it the best thing that could happen in my life.

I came over from Germany a week before this school year started to attend Post-16 at Landau Forte College, leaving my whole life behind me: my family, my hobbies and my friendships.

It was especially difficult in the first few weeks. The most decisive point was that people didn't know that I was not just a 'new external student', so there were many awkward situations when I asked someone to repeat something for the third time and still didn't get it.

Finally after two weeks, most people knew about my situation; everyone tried to help me and explain everything a fifth time.

Students and tutors taught me not to feel stupid; that it is alright to struggle and not to worry about asking questions, which I did a lot. This was due to the friendly atmosphere in school and the fact that teachers and peers had time for my needs.

Now, five months later, I'm still confused sometimes

when all the people in the corridors walk on the left side and weight and height are measured in stones and foot. However, I can say that I am so happy to have met such amazing people here at Landau, who helped me to settle so well, make me feel comfortable every day, are patient with me and keep repeating things without being annoyed.



Thanks to all of you who contributed to support the questions and fears I had and supported me in learning a new language, getting to know a new culture and a learning for life.

Lara Minkus, Year 12

"What if I couldn't find friends who I could trust and talk to about everything?"

"What if no one sympathised with my situation?"

"What if I didn't like it?"

"What if I struggled so much with the language that there were endless misunderstandings?"



Twickenham Treat

The annual College rugby visit to witness the Oxford VS Cambridge Universities varsity match saw its highest number of participants this year with forty students from across all year groups representing the College.

Prior to kick off, the students observed a memorial service to honour the Oxbridge students who lost their lives during WW1, marking the centurion anniversary.

The students were then treated to an entertaining match with both sides heavily supported in the stands. For a number of our students, this was their first experience of watching both live rugby and visiting Twickenham Stadium. Oxford emerged victorious, winning for the fifth consecutive year in a row, 43 points to 6.

The students' behaviour was impeccable throughout the visit, including some award worthy 'singing' on the return coach trip. Special thanks to Mr Bathew and Mr New for accompanying us on the visit, and we are all looking forward to next year's match.

T C Lightfoot



Totally Trade fair

This year has seen the Year 8 cohort gather together to manufacture, display and trade with fellow Post-16 students, external visitors and Learning Tutors in order to try and sell their products they have been working on within their Design & Technology sessions.

The emphasis was on the students to focus on sustainability and looking at recycling and waste materials. From this, students adapted and designed products in the most efficient way so that they were helping the environment

and reflecting on effects this may have on the environment in the long term.

Trade Fair helped to showcase the wonderful work students had created since the start of Year 8 and highlighted the keen determination and competition within the groups in order to strive and be the best.

Sultan Zaheer benefitted from the day and found the experience enriching, "I enjoyed making the glasses out of cardboard. People can put lenses in them rather than wasting plastic. It was fun to make them because I

found that it made me think more creatively."

We selected three people's work who we think achieved high quality products to display at the Trade Fair. These included Sultan Zaheer, Jorja Thompson and Issa Mahruf.

As ever, trade was highly successful, with an array of fantastic products to showcase the need to recycle and consider the environment, and reflect on those positive changes that we all need to consider.

L Brannigan



Let's Hear It For the Girls!

Derby County Community Trust - Wembley Visit

Landau Forte's Under 16 girls football team represented Derby County in a football festival hosted at Wembley Stadium followed by the international match between England Women and Germany. This was a historic day for the England Women's team as they played their first official fixture at Wembley. The girls stayed

after the festival to enjoy the game.

The festival consisted of 5-a-side matches where the team played Peterborough, Queens Park Rangers and Luton Town in the group stage. There was also a number of fun activities for the girls to participate in when not they were not competing which included a speed cage, target shooting and a freestyle workshop.

Team Captain:

Emily Zaara

Players:

Sameeya Hussain
Lily Loan
Sidra Rasool
Lily-Mae Gibson
Molly Willmott
Emily Leonard
Skye Bassett
Ayesha Scott
Ellie Simpson



U16 Stoke District Tournament

Landau Forte's Under 16 Girls football team represented Derby County in a district tournament hosted by Stoke City FC.

The tournament was held at the club's Academy training ground. The girls competed against teams from across the country and were great ambassadors for the College. Following the tournament the girls enjoyed a guided tour of the Britannia Stadium.

Team Captain:

Emily Zaara

Players:

Sidra Rasool
Rista Mall
Emily Zaara
Molly Willmott
Tyrah Manahan
Lily-Mae Gibson
Ayesha Scott
Sameeya Hussain



U13

Landau Forte College was represented in the Football League Trust Under 13's Girls Cup. The cup is nationwide and hosted by Community Schemes from seventy two Football League clubs with the final held at Wembley in an action-packed weekend where the winners will become the Under 13 National Champions. Derby County Community Trust's

local stage of the tournament was held at the Power League Soccerdome (next to Pride Park Stadium). The girls narrowly missed out on a place in the final, finishing third overall. The girls performed at an outstanding level, displaying great individual and team skill and sportsmanship. As a result of Millie Simpson's outstanding performance, she was selected for the Derby County U13's side.

Team A Captain:

Livi Spencer

Players:

Millie Simpson, Naomi Lawrence, Chloe Jackson, Emily Randle, Eve Stewart, Leah Taylor

Team B Captain:

Amyra Sule

Players:

Grace Hornby, Emma Smith, Louise Bitshuangu, Priya Gill, Robyn Shillingford, Aimelea Barnett, Melissa Whitehead



U14 League Winners

The Under 14 Girls football team put in a magnificent performance in this year's local league. With conceding only one goal throughout the whole tournament, the girls were the overall winners. The final was

played against Woodlands school with a big 5-0 finish. The shield is displayed in College's reception.

Article by L Barron

Team Captain:

Paris McKenzie

Players:

Livi Spencer
Naomi Lawrence
Robyn Shillingford
Amyra Sule
Chloe Jackson
Millie Simpson
Talyiah Watkis
Bridey Atkinson
Emma Smith,
Paris McKenzie
Lily Warrington



And Finally.. Student Editors' Farewell

In September 2013 following a rigorous application and interview process, current Year 13 students Ellie Spare and Isobel Davidson became student editors for Newslink. After editing seven issues and contributing to many more, the students outline the most valuable lessons they learnt while undertaking the role.

Ellie

I have learnt to trust my own judgment. The position of Student Editor entails a high level of responsibility; articles must be cut, words must be altered and graphics must be decided. The confidence placed in our abilities to make

such decisions has stimulated a newfound courage in my academic study.

I have learnt to prioritise. Associated with any publication (be it Newslink or The Times) are the demands of deadlines. Learning to balance the rigorous timetable of an A Level student alongside such time limits has left me with time-management skills to rival even most successful broadsheet editors!

Isobel

I have learnt to read critically and analyse closely. I once had to cut down a two thousand word piece to five hundred words; a difficult task, but I

have actually found that now I am able to analyse my own work more critically, which is incredibly useful for an A Level English student!

I have learnt to work in conjunction with both staff and peers. At first, I thought the prospect of badgering people for articles rather daunting, but looking back, there hasn't been much hassle at all. It has been great to develop the communication skills needed when working with different people, be it tutors or tutees, friends or someone I've never spoken to before. For me, communication is confidence, which will definitely be vital in my future work and studies.

And, ultimately, we have learnt that obtaining an opportunity to enhance our academic achievements with an extracurricular pursuit has proved invaluable in improving our future prospects: we have both been offered places at our desired universities.

Mrs Ellis

From the outset, Ellie and Izzy made a lasting impression during the interview process for the student editorial team and went on to exceed expectations in their attention to detail and work ethic. Both have brought such creativity, enthusiasm and professionalism to NewsLink in my time as editor, and it was my pleasure to work alongside them both.



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