The 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 hostilities and the 100th anniversary of Lucton’s Cadets made this a very special occasion and the Cadets helped make this one of the most moving Remembrance Services in many years.

We gathered at the front of the school where 100 giant poppies had been placed around the Memorial Gates. Revd. Price, the Chaplain addressed us, Harry D, our Year 8 bugler, marked the silence and wreaths were laid at the entrance by the Headmistress and the Cadets. We then moved into the Memorial Hall for the service, conducted by the Chaplain. Senior pupils read the roll of honour and gave readings. Wreaths were also laid on the two internal memorials, one by Head Boy, Fin Franke, and Mr Markham laid a wreath on the Second World War Memorial on behalf of the Old Luctonians Association. Many thanks to the parents and guests who joined us to mark this significant occasion.
We were treated to some delightful poetry recitations last Friday, all in preparation for the forthcoming Speech & Drama exams (aka LAMDA) next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. It always amazes me, no matter how many times I get to see them, how children as young as 6 can stand up and perform a poem off-by-heart. This assembly is there as a practice for those who have never taken this exam as well as the whole class choral speaking. Truly a great confidence builder for all who take part! Thank you Mrs Rogers, Mrs Sharman and the parents who help your son or daughter to practise and become word perfect.

Friday was also the School’s Remembrance Parade. The Prep School always goes to observe this solemn occasion. Given that it is the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice, we have also done our bit.

The Prep School have been paying their respects to the multitudes of men, women and animals that died during the First World War by creating a fantastic display. The pupils have shown dedication and thought, creating some wonderfully memorable designs to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War. Many thanks go to Miss Cockburn for designing the task and creating the display. Thanks also go to Mrs Rogers for helping create the final piece. Please come and see our display at the back of the Prep School Hall! I do have to say that the British are very creative when it comes to how we commemorate different events, and it’s something to take all our minds off that other farrago happening in the world!

So what did we do this week? Well, as Radio 1 commented on Tuesday, it is a mere 6 weeks until Christmas and so 2 Fridays before the Christmas Fayre and 3 until the Nativity and 4 until the Carol Service. That means we need to, amongst other topics, cover common denominators and equivalent fractions (Year 5), really work on our mapping skills (Year 4), nail the various parts of the skeleton (Year 3), learn about different habitats (Year 2), discover what an algorithm is (Year 1, honestly, well all that means is a computing process) and learn how to say hello in French (Reception Class). As you can see, rather a lot really!, but, yes there have been some serious Nativity rehearsals for Pre Prep and Transition and the excitement
that engenders is creeping through the rest of the school.

BUT, next week (Monday) we have the first Prep School Music Concert of the year which involves all of Years 3-5 with a few visitors. Everyone is invited to come and watch. The concert starts promptly at 5:30 and will finish by 6:30. There is a whole School Mufti Day on Thursday, the children can come in their own clothes for either a bottle of something tasty for the tombola or £2 or £3, which will go towards prizes on the tombola. We finish the week with a Ballet Assembly.

That leaves me space to invite family and friends along to our Friday Assemblies where we celebrate the children’s achievements, catch up on school news, have a cup of tea and even use the school pool. A perfect start to the weekend and a wonderful antidote to Brexit! See you on Friday!

Forest School

Hide and seek was the name of the game this week and all in aid of trying to sit still long enough to watch wildlife. Suffice to say that we haven’t quite got the patience to sit so still. It is amazing what you see out of the corner of your eye.

Sixth Form Information Evening

Last Friday night, prospective Sixth Form students had the opportunity to discuss the possibilities with the A Level subject teachers and Mr Goode gave an introductory talk regarding many aspects of Sixth Form life at Lucton.

There was an excellent turn-out and Mr Goode was delighted with the feedback so many staff gave him of the intelligent queries from the students.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a useful and informative evening.
Boarding News

The boarders took part in a fabulous trip on their first weekend back at school; West Midlands Safari Park for the firework extravaganza. Being one of the most popular trips of the year, the buses were alive with chat and songs as we made our way over to the park. We all had a fantastic time on the rides, which were quite exhilarating, and it was lovely to see the smiles on faces and cheers of delight! A couple of the boarders were a bit ‘enthusiastic’ with their choice of rides and regretted their decisions afterwards!

After the excitement of the rides and the gift shop, we made our way up to the top of the hill to claim our spot for the best part of the night; the fireworks! Yet again, the park didn’t disappoint with a whole show of the most amazing fireworks set to music which climaxed with a display to the song ‘This is Me’ from The Greatest Showman which had all of the boarders singing along.

The senior boarders worked extremely hard throughout the weekend as they are all involved in examinations, nearly all of them choosing to work for most of the day to ensure that they were all fully prepared - wonderful to see; well done all!

As we move ever closer to the Christmas break, please may I ask that parents send in flight details and travel plans for boarders as soon as possible to enquiries@luctonschool.org

Message from Matron:
Funny tummy? – Do not return too early!

At this time of year there is a prevalence of stomach bugs. For the sake of containment, no child should return to school until 48 hours have passed from the last time they vomited or had diarrhoea. We have had to send pupils home, only to see them the following day being ill again and to send them back home. For all our benefit, if your son or daughter does have a stomach bug please keep them at home for the timescale suggested above.
Friends of Lucton School planning meeting

On Wednesday evening, there was a very well-attended planning meeting at the school, so well-attended that we had to vacate the meeting room and move into the Dining Hall!

Discussion involved final plans for the rest of this term and floating event ideas for next term, whilst we even spent some time on the Lucton Food Festival, which will take place on the last Saturday in April, shortly after we return for the summer term.

Many thanks to Carl Gilmore for organising a wine tasting and a superb selection of cheese. Everyone is welcome at planning meetings and the next one will take place on Wednesday 16th January; please consider coming along!

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you all at one of the events towards the end of term, in particular the Winter Glitter Ball on Saturday December 8th and the Christmas Fayre (see below).

MUFTI DAY
Whole School Mufti for the Christmas Fayre bottle stall
NEXT THURSDAY (22nd November).
Bottles preferred or a £2 or £3 donation.
Sports Report

U13 RUGBY v Downs
A cracking game of rugby with both teams attacking and scoring some good tries. We lost the first half 3 tries to 1 and won the second-half 4 tries to 3, showing good character. Ellis Yates was our man-of-the-match with a good performance in both attack and defense and Jack Fletcher made a couple of great tackles to keep us in the game at important moments. Individually we showed determination, but we do need to work on individual technical skills, particularly in loose play and around the contact area and then develop an understanding of how that fits in with the wider needs of the team and the need of the individual to think about the team. As individuals on the field of play we tend to think only about ourselves and also we tend to be re-active rather than pro-active to the play. We can and should be winning these matches!

U12/3 LACROSSE v Monmouth Girls
Draw 9-9. On Wednesday 14th Tiphany was captain for the U13 and U12s who played a lacrosse match against Monmouth. Monmouth girls are a very experienced team as they have had lots of ball skill and game practice. It was a very successful match, with all players displaying 100% work effort on the pitch keeping up with such a skilful opposition. The girls clearly enjoyed the challenge of playing such a successful and strong team. Each player showed great determination and drive, impartially Tiphany and Darcy battling their way up the pitch. Olivia and Sophie’s shooting skills have come on really well this term and they were not afraid to take a shot at goal during the game. I was really impressed with every single girl on the team this Wednesday and it was great to see all players come on and progress during the match. The player of the match was awarded to Olivia and the final score was 9 all. Well done! I am really looking forward to our next match.

County tie for Lewis
Lewis M collected his Herefordshire County Cricket tie in recognition of his contribution to the U10s County Cricket
Squad for the 2018 season. He represented the county on 5 occasions. He has also played club cricket for Burghill, Weobley and Tillington cricket club who won the County Cup.

**U16 NETBALL v QE Bromyard**
A little light relief from mock exams, a run around the netball court and a solid 19-4 victory, in a match in which we were always dominant. Player of the match, Annie Shuvalova, scored many early goals, always moving fluidly in the attacking circle, well supported by Megan, whose confidence grew in the last quarter and centre court players, Ellie, Gina and Georgie, who made a welcome return from injury. Although the defence were not unduly troubled, Keira picked up some good balls and Nell was always free to help move the ball down the court. Good preparation for next week's trip to Alcester Grammar School.

**U11/U12 LACROSSE v Prestfelde**
The girls had their first lacrosse match of the term. It was a very tough match as Prestfelde had a very good defence and were keeping the girls away from goal which made it very hard for the attackers. We fought back in the second half, and Eleanor Butler managed to score two amazing goals for Lucton. The girl's spirits were high and they were all giving it their all until the end of the game. Well done to Eleanor Butler who was nominated man of the match.

**BADMINTON v Bedstone**
This was our fourth encounter with Bedstone this term, and predictably it was another epic tussle to see who would end up on top. Overall, the result was even.
Lucton won emphatically at the mixed doubles where we were unbeatable, and were equal in the boys doubles. On the day we were less dominant at singles and in the girls doubles, and so these are areas to focus on for development in the future. It was great to see newer members of the team such as Harold, Sophia, Evie and Michelle progressing so quickly, whilst our experienced players in the shape of Gilbert, Mike, Kristy, Ching-Mei and Phillips continue to improve.

**PREP SCHOOL RUGBY & FOOTBALL**

The Prep School Teams have had a busy week with their first contact rugby fixtures against Bowbrook and the ISA 5 a-side tournament. The rugby at U10s went really well with lots of fantastic running, tackling and rucking. Lucton proved far too strong for Bowbrook. Lots of tries for George M, Hugo and Thomas B. It was great to get George L involved too and there were some excellent contact skills and rucking shown by Oliver and Zac. The next two weeks, present tougher opponents in The Downs and The Elms but the team are up for the challenge!

In the football, the team had a great start with an unbeaten three match run beating Stafford 4-1, St Peter’s 2-1 and a 2-2 draw with Heathfield Knoll. The final group games was a narrow 2-1 loss to St Wystan’s. Early goals scored by Henry M, George M, Nathan B and Archi L. The team finished 2nd in their group and therefore entered the cup competition, a first ever for the school at this event. The opponents in this next phase proved too much and although the team worked hard, they lost to Birchfield, Edenhurst, and Twycross House, but not by too many goals. An overall position of 10th out of 21 was a huge improvement on previous years.

The U11s had a more challenging week. The rugby against Bowbrook was tough as they had two very big and very fast players that make all the difference at this age group. The boys tried hard but lacked the power and size, none-the-less lots of tries were scored with Thor, James, George and Lewis being at the heart of many good moves and thanks to the Year 5s who played up!

In football, the U11s were under-gunned through absence of some key players; however, the team battled hard all day against some formidable opposition. They managed a draw against Heathfield Knoll and were close against Stafford but other matches proved to be a football lesson for the team! More players need to make practices more often in order to move forwards!