Our intrepid band of skiers met up in school at 5:00am and a mere 10 hours later we were driving up the winding road to Les Arcs 1600. The mountains were covered with snow and, as we made our way up, the snow got deeper and deeper by the side. The UCPA Centre was the same as two years ago and there were some familiar faces waiting for us.

Having put our luggage in our rooms we dashed

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Welcome back to the summer term. This is always an incredibly packed term culminating in our annual production in the last week – in fact, it is on the penultimate day. We have music concerts, sports day, Speech Day, a whole school Steam Train ride - 81 of us on a steam train, what fun – dressage competitions, triathlons, Book Fair, Indian Mask Making, a ‘Nature in Art’ Trip, this list goes on and I am definitely sure I’ve missed quite a lot.

Looking back to the end of last term, we finished on a high with Hereford Festival. This year was a bumper year with children as young as 5 taking part in their first ever public competition. Isn’t that amazing, performing a poem in front of an unknown audience at the age of 5 and then thinking that it is normal at the age of 8 or 9! If you remember, we also finished with a wonderful Easter Egg hunt organised by Year 5. We even had the Easter Bunny and… we now look forward to what they can do in the production and, of course, the Moving Up Assembly which is our last Friday Assembly of the academic year.

This week, we got straight back into the thick of it with a number of new topics: Journeys in Reception Class, Space (the final frontier) in Year 1. Plants are under the microscope in Year 2. Staying in the earth, Year 3 will be becoming trainee geologists whereas Year 4 are learning about sound (trainee acoustic engineers?) and Year 5 will be studying forces. This is a just a snapshot. I didn’t mention history, geography, the summer sports, art, music, French… et al. There is much to consider, learn and, we hope remember. Meanwhile the instrumental and equestrian programmes have begun in earnest no doubt with half an eye on the ‘End of Year Picnic Concert’ and the ‘Grassroots Dressage’ that is planned.

It is great to see the summer uniform in place. Please remember to send in the raincoat – it is the UK after all and will (is) rain. Also, please also have a wide-brimmed hat in readiness for the sun along with labelled sun cream. We see lovely red faces when the weather is warm so it would be good to have these items in school. We hope we will need them!

So that leaves me space to remind you that you, your family and friends are always invited to our Friday Assemblies. It is the perfect place to celebrate the children’s
achievements, catch up with school news, sing (always good for the spirit), have a cup of tea and even use the School pool. So do please come along if you can, it is a wonderful way to start the weekend.

Forest School

“It’s all green!” and “Wow, it’s grown!” were the comments this week as the children realised how fast everything has grown in such a short space of time. They also discovered exactly why red is no good for hiding, that trees have flowers as well and tried to answer, exactly what makes a flower, a flower and not a weed? Well we couldn’t answer the last one so if there are any theories we’d love to have them.

Ski Trip cont.

downstairs for our ski fit followed by the first of many 3 course meals! What was even more fantastic was that, except for the first day, we skied back for lunch every day. The mornings started leisurely at 7:30 with our lessons beginning at 9:45. This gave us time to make sure we had our ski passes, helmets, gloves, etc.

The weather was superb and the snow excellent. We had over 5 hours of skiing a day followed by activities such as straplining (tightrope walking), music quizzes, dance off and the all-important discos. This meant that lights out was generally by 10:30 with the older ones deciding to turn them out earlier on occasions! We had a morning off and took the opportunity to visit Bourg-Saint-Maurice, the local town; classically French with, amongst other things, a brilliant creperie that was sampled by all. Personally, I think the chocolate crepe is the best and have yet to be convinced by the banana and Nutella, although I am assured this is fantastic.

With 23 hours of solid skiing, the children made massive progress. The 16 who had never skied, were able to ski almost from the top of the mountain (over 3000m) with the top group having skied across the entire mountainside (it is over 10km from one side to the other) not including all the slopes in between. This was my fourth time at Les Arcs and I skied areas I had never been to this time – a big mountain indeed!

We weren’t the only group in the centre, far from it, in fact our 36 was a small group with the rest averaging 50+ from Luxembourg, Belgium and Brussels with over 400 in the centre altogether. Our Lucton spirit of joining in with everything stood us in good stead and soon we joined in with the other groups in the evenings even going so far as to really trying out the French learned at school. They were all fantastic at all times even on the night we left when we didn’t bother going to bed as the coach left at 1:00am! Still we all agreed we prefer to do this than take 24 hours on a coach. I want to say a huge thank you, not only to the children for their excellent attitude, cooperating and looking after each other, but also to Mr Muckalt and Miss Roper for their help throughout the trip and, finally, to Mrs Partis in the Office for collating all of the information needed to ensure that we could even get on the plane! A fantastic trip and keep an eye out for the next one. Apparently we will be going back, such was the enthusiasm for the resort. 2021 is the next trip!
Swynnerton CCF camp
Swynnerton Cadet Camp March 2019 – Operation HEISENBERG. Following on from the success of our operation in November 2018 Lucton School CCF, callsign Reaper 17 (R17), was called upon once again to seek out and destroy a terrorist network that had infiltrated the area local to Swynnerton in Staffordshire. They had set up a firm base and were using it for nefarious purposes to fund their activities. R17’s mission was to gather intelligence (int), arrest and detain cell members and finally formulate a plan for breaking down the remainder of the network.

During the evening of Friday the teams were inserted into their area of responsibility and given tasks. They were to arrest three suspicious characters and then detain and question them. All went well with enough int gathered to launch a raid on a series of farm houses the next day. Three sections were given a compound each to clear of enemy and gather more int. The assaults went well with a large amount of contraband being confiscated, including weaponry, counterfeit money and improvised explosive devices.

With the network on its knees, the final push came on Sunday with a series of hasty attacks on numerous positions throughout a large bunker complex. With the terrorist cell destroyed R17 could enjoy a leisurely coach trip back to Herefordshire, just in time for tea and medals.

Post operation: intelligence has been gathered and the Umbrella Corporation from an earlier operation are up to their old tricks somewhere in the Midlands. More information is needed, but an operation may take place during the later months of 2019.

WO2 Rich Brown, SSI, Lucton School CCF
Hereford Festival 2019

Mrs Sharman and Mrs Rogers would like to say a huge congratulations to all of the Drama performers at this year’s Herefordshire Performing Arts Festival. All LAMDA students, across the Prep, Middle and Senior school entered with good spirit and showed that all the rehearsal time they put in, paid off. Mrs Sharman would especially like to thank the students who performed and were crew in The Jungle Book for organising their time so well – it is a very busy time of year, dramatically!

Year on year, the Festival has grown in size, and this year was no exception. Many of the classes had to be split due to size, often with 40 entries per class or more.

Our pupils behaved impeccably throughout the festival, and were a credit to the school. A healthy level of competition rippled through the audience; evidence of just how much our students care about achieving their best performance.

Many students entered several classes, and special mention should go to Theo Baba Neal who won his Shakespeare solo acted class. He and his partner, Tristan Watts, won their Interview class and were invited to perform at the Gala evening concert in the Courtyard Theatre. Lucton also gained Gold (Alex Wood) Silver (Herbie Westhorpe) and Bronze (Tara Chandra) in the Intermediate solo acting class. Many thanks to all students for working so hard, and of course to parents for all the support you provide at home, and for getting them to the various locations across Hereford during that week – it is a logistical nightmare but well worth it!

As you are probably aware – this was the last Festival in it’s current format; however, we have high hopes, and are in discussions, that we can continue it next year. If you have any suggestions regarding funding for the continuation of the festival, please do talk to Mrs Rogers or Mrs Sharman – we are determined to be there in 2020!

Mrs Sharman

Bluebell walk

On Thursday, the April showers came and went but Reception journeyed on! There was much to see and explore on the walk from Croft – bluebells aplenty as well as a water mill, fish pools, a bridge with a troll and a fairy tree. Well done, Reception! A super walk!

26th April
Summer 2019, week 1
Sports Report

**U15 Herefordshire County Netball Tournament**
The U15 netball team finished the netball season in style by winning their section on goal difference, to progress to the semi-final. A comfortable 9–3 win against JKHS in their opening match was followed by a tense 8–8 draw against St Mary's. This match began slowly and tentatively and although we were 6–3 down at half time, a stern half time talk had the desired effect, with a swift comeback as the defence turned over some key balls which piled on the pressure as we made the most of all goal scoring opportunities for a well deserved draw. Fortunately an 8–4 victory, against Fairfield was enough to win the section. The semi-final was a competitive affair and although we lost 12–6 to HCS the score line does not reflect the tenacity and resilience shown by the girls. Encouraging leadership from co-captains Edith and Faith, solid centre court play from Amelia and Grace and positive play from the Yr 9s, Harriet, Georgia and Amber, meant that this was a real team effort.

**ISA National Cross Country Championships at Rugby**
Saturday 30th March was a quintessential English day, blue skies, sunshine, a balmy wind and a cross country course run around the pancake flat playing fields at Rugby school.

Lucton's large contingent of runners did not disappoint, producing many very good performances, at what was for many, their first major championship. From the prep school Solange ran superbly to finish 16th in a competitive Yr 3/4 girls race, whilst Ana, Will and Hugo ran well and will have learnt a lot from their first appearance at these championships, which can be a daunting experience with so many runners on the start line, all jostling for a good position.

Hannah Wilson (Yr 5/6 girls) got the senior school off to a good start and ran sensibly against strong, quick opposition to finish 30th, as did James in the Yr 5/6 boys race. George (Yr 7/8) had to contend with a fast and furious initial pace and did well to finish 34th, whilst Darcy (Yr 7/8) and Malachy (Yr 9/10) both impressed as they finished 13th in their respective races, as did Archie (Yr 9/10), who always kept Malachy in sight, and his final sprint for the finish was good enough for 16th. Not to be outdone by her siblings, Aoibh, with her signature socks, set the pace in the Yr 11/12/13 race, leading a break away pack of four. As they upped the pace, Aoibh stayed in contention and did well to finish 4th. Equally impressive was Amelia’s 12th place finish as she calmly and quietly gained confidence as she worked her way through the field.

Having not run for two years, it was a great pleasure to take such a positive group of athletes to this prestigious event and I very much hope that all pupils will be inspired by their performances!

26th April
Summer 2019, week 1
Another title for Thomas

Thomas Burns is now the West Midlands Junior DTL Champion 2019. The picture shows Thomas after the win.

Also at the first round of the England selections at Nottingham, Thomas was pleased to finish in second place in the Juniors with 198/200 and 574/600 points, missing only 2 clays, not bad in those freezing conditions. Thomas was delighted that he hit more clays than any other Junior competitor and psychologically, that’s a big plus point for going into the next two rounds.

Ava in the Wizard of Oz

Ava will be performing in The Wizard of Oz at the Courtyard in Hereford between Wednesday 24th April and Saturday 27th April over 4 performances. She has been practising for the performance since January as part of the Courtyard drama group.

History MA for Miss Cockburn

Lucton teacher, Miss Cockburn, seen here at the graduation ceremony as she received her MA in the History of Great Britain and the First World War.
Equestrian News

Dengie Pony Club Championships
Seren L had a good day at these championships coming 15th out of over 70 with a new partnership in the 1m 05.

Stable Management Regional PC Championships
Scarlett Barrett came 4th in her team from the North Hereford Hunt at these during the holidays. The team had to answer questions on a variety of subject including turn out, feeding, plaiting, hunting and travelling. This was a really strong section and it was a relatively young team so well done girls.

New Equestrian staff
We welcome Miss Griffiths to the Equestrian Centre. “I have a level 3 Extended Diploma in Horse Management from Holme Lacy (Hereford and Ludlow College). From there I worked for the 4* local eventer, Louise Harwood, where I was lucky enough to groom for her at Badminton, Burghley and Luhmuhlen and ride some of her superb horses. After leaving Louise’s yard I went back to Holme Lacy where I helped supervise the students in Horse Management. I am looking forward to now working at Lucton which is closer to my home and would like to progress my training further and hope to become a coach. My main equine interest lies in eventing. I have recently sold my horse to concentrate on building my house but hope soon to have another horse.”

Jake’s Blog
We have had a fab holiday with lots of fun things like hacking! Charlie and Storm went home, Mouse went to one of our external pupils for a holiday and Billy has gone to join a new family with triplets! We have watched some lessons and had a Dressage Show so lots has been happening including some lovely weather! It was a bit of a shock on Wednesday to have the rain! We like our new friend, Miss Griffiths, who we have broken in gently, but she seems really nice!

Lucton Food Festival
Sat 27th April
10am - 4pm
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
Great selection of food drink & demonstrations.

26th April
Summer 2019, week 1