Middle School trip to France

We set off bright and early, tired but eager to reach France. Many of our party had never been on a ferry before, so this was one of many firsts for our trip! Although Calais is a mere twenty miles or so from England, as soon as we arrived we noted the difference in feel and appearance of the two countries. It was not long before we arrived at our first destination: the “boulangerie”. Our two bakers spoke only French to us, but the students quickly realised that if they listened carefully, they could understand a great deal. Students also had an opportunity to make croissants under the supervision of the baker, who, in an intimidating fashion, would tap his “baton” if anyone dared to speak English!

On day two, we visited Dunkirk and were given a fascinating tour by our guide, Emmanuel. We learned that while for us, Dunkirk was the biggest evacuation of troops across the sea in history and deemed to be completely successful operation, the French have little knowledge of this event and

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SUMMER BALL
Saturday 15th June 2019
7.30pm till 1.00am. £35.00
Tickets available from the main office
Welcome back from half term. Yes, indeed, last week was half term although it does seem a distant memory. In that case you will have to dredge up the fabulous assembly that Year 3 closed the first half of the summer term. It was all about perseverance and not giving up at the first hurdle told through an adaptation of the Tortoise and the Hare. We had 4 versions with how the story would change: a) if the Tortoise said she could never do it, b) gave up at the start, and so on. The fact that the Tortoise did give it a go and then didn’t give up makes all the difference. So, that is the message: Always give it a go and Don’t give up before the end. I think that is something we can all aspire to; thank you Year 3.

So to this week and what a busy week it has been! The whole school disappeared off on a steam train on Tuesday. There is a wonderful report later in the Lucton News but suffice to say that everyone had a great time and it has sparked off a lot of creative writing. It is always lovely to have something that has such an impact to write about. It was very odd to be at school with no children. There were very few children in Years 4 & 5 on Thursday as the rest were out at the annual ISA Athletics.

An empty school on Tuesday meant a lot could then be done amongst which was ensuring that interviews for the forthcoming post were finalised. The time has come to announce to all we are absolutely delighted to tell you that the projected numbers for Year 3 (current Year 2) for the academic year 2019/20 mean that we will be forming two Year 3 classes. This is super news and, still in this vein, we are doing the same to Year 5 moving into Year 6! So, over Wednesday and Thursday we were treated to 5 candidates coming to teach for a post in the Prep School. It was very exciting as this hasn’t happened for a number of years. We are now in the happy position of having to make a choice and we will let you know before the end of term.

Still with the new academic year, we have Induction Day on 27th June when all the classes meet their new teacher. For the Prep School, this is just for the first part of the morning. For Year 5 it is a whole day up in Year 6 to really acclimatise them for September. It is a wonderful day all round with our new Reception Class children.
having a Teddy Bears’ Picnic to give them an idea of what will be happening. That being said, the Transition Class has been spending Fridays with Mrs Fower since January so they will be old hands come September.

Back to this week and we were treated to Open The Book and their telling of the story of Pentecost. We really didn’t know that this is considered to be the end of Easter. As ever a lot of the children were involved as bystanders or disciples. We really enjoy the stories and always look forward to seeing them. Thinking of performances, we have really been getting on with the Nightingale: moving the stage around, deciding who should come on from where and then deciding again. It is quite a process and the children are learning a lot about stage direction.

Phew! What a busy week! That just leaves me space to remind you to come along to our Friday Assemblies. This is a brilliant way to start the weekend by celebrating the children’s achievements, catching up on school news (there is always more I can promise you) having a cup of tea and even using the swimming pool should you want to. Please do come along and bring family and friends as well.

Percussion workshop

On Tuesday, the Year 6s were delighted to be given a last-minute opportunity to attend a fantastic music workshop at St Laurence’s, Ludlow. This was led by two professional percussionists, and funded by the Arts Council. After a brain-teasing warm up, the children used long and short broomsticks to create music in the Calinda style – folk music from Trinidad and Tobago. Continuing with the lively, sunny theme, we then moved on to a whistle-stop tour of Brazilian Samba, building up complicated rhythmic patterns into a dramatic ensemble performance. After learning the patterns by clapping and chanting memorable phrases, the children were thrilled to play traditional Samba instruments for the culmination of a noisy, fulfilling afternoon! Thank you very much to Mrs King for the invitation.
Boarding House

We have welcomed back the students for the second half of the term and look forward to what promises to be a very busy few weeks. Rodion has joined us from the Ukraine for a couple of weeks, and we also have Gabrielle back in Croft House and Maria in School Cottage. Boarders are hard at work preparing for and undertaking their exams and we wish them every success.

For those of you who do not know our newest houseparents, here is a photo of the whole family!

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interest in this historic event is only now beginning to grow. In the afternoon, we visited a snail farm; again with all information provided in French by our friendly snail-farmer. We were pleased by how adventurous the pupils were as most students took the opportunity to sample the snails. Morgan was very taken by this French delicacy (and ate several!) while others found them “disgusting”! Is there any chance Lee, that these could become a regular feature in the Lucton menu?

Day 3 was probably the highlight for most students as they loved visiting the market in Boulogne and they were amazed by the variety of produce on offer. In the afternoon, we had fantastic fun at the water park, followed by a thoroughly enjoyable time on Le Touquet beach. The boys even managed to organise a football match against some local French football enthusiasts and we were thrilled as our side managed a convincing 4-0 win with Herbie shouting euphorically, “C’est super! C’est super!” What a great result for Lucton’s first international football fixture – and Mr Rogers, I think we can overlook that the captain, Alfie Wong, is Chinese!

On our last day, we managed to fit in a visit to the local market and the Calais hypermarket to buy some last minute souvenirs. Students finished off their trip journals, in which they recorded their thoughts and feelings about the trip. Without exception, all agreed that they had enjoyed a fantastic trip, had learned a great deal, had used and listened to a great deal of French and were looking forward to sharing news of their experiences with their families.

Au revoir France, we look forward to another Middle School visit in the not too distant future!
CCF Year 8 Trip to Oakerwood

The annual bustle of excitement leading up to the CCF Year 8 Trip to Oakerwood was in full effect this year. For a couple of months the CCF staff had been questioned, almost interrogated on what would happen and how hard it would be. As normal the staff remained tight lipped, so the Year 8s gleaned what they could from the Year 9s and their experience last year.

Monday saw the cadets load themselves and their equipment onto Roger’s bus and begin their adventure to Oakerwood. Day one was led by the staff of Oakerwood and included raft building and some high-ropes, finishing off with a BBQ and the Contingent Commander’s in depth lesson on a 24 hour ration pack at the glamping pods.

Tuesday morning arrived with the waft of bacon, sausage and eggs, after which we relocated to the forest to begin 36hrs of basic military training. This included cooking in the field, basha building and camouflage and concealment. The cadets were also introduced to basic patrolling techniques and took part in some night time activities, getting them into their shelters at nearly midnight.

The final day was the obligatory paintball battle throughout a series of courses where they could take their frustrations out on each other and members of the staff. (The members of the CCF staff can always tell if the trip has been successful by the amount of cadets who are too tired to come to school the next day, there were a few who didn’t make it Thursday morning!)

A big thank you to Cdt CSjt Aaron Powell and Cdt Sjt Ellie Nicholson, for their assistance during Tuesday and Wednesday’s activities.

WO2 Rich Brown, SSI, Lucton School CCF Contingent

Angus & Forbes at Hay

Angus and Forbes W., along with their friend George, were invited to perform, as a band named Symbiosis, in this year’s Hay Fringe Festival. The boys’ performance on the first Saturday of half term at “How The Light Gets In” was a resounding success. Due to popular demand, they played several extra sets and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The organisers have promised them a slot on one of the main stages next year. On the following day, Forbes and Angus teamed up with Amelia B. and their friend Kitty to play as a Ceilidh band at the Stockton Bury Gardens open day. It was a big success witnessed by several Lucton members of staff and pupils, both past and present, and the general public.
Sports Report

**U14 CRICKET v Bedstone**

On a very pleasant afternoon we opted to bowl on a green, drying wicket. Our opening bowlers of Clarke and Barrett bowled steadily, although Jack must have made both batsmen play and miss on more than 20 occasions—he was extremely unlucky not to have taken a wicket. Toby P was then brought into the attack and his slow, straight deliveries proved too much for the Bedstone batsmen and Toby ripped the heart out of the middle order taking 3 wickets in two overs. Fred Perry came on and took another 3 to put us well on top; however, despite some good fielding and game management from Chilman, Barrett and Captain Tom M, the penultimate pair, put on 44 runs—including a lot of extras in wides, so that Bedstone finished on 104 all out after 19.5 overs. Extras were top scorer with 43!

Chilman and Hassan strode out confidently to bat and Kian scored freely on the leg side with some good hits. After his dismissal and with Barrett at the crease we felt that victory was assured. Unfortunately, Jack played and missed a straight one and was given lbw. Pressure on. Tom M batted nicely for 4 runs, wickets fell through some poor batting and running decisions, but Archie held up one end allowing Fred Chilman to earn man of the match with 35 runs from 31 balls in a very controlled innings, which saved our pride! There were too many bowling extras—we need to work on our bowling technique in training boys! Overall, a good fielding performance helped nicely with Fred’s excellent innings. Victory over the old enemy is always sweet!

**Leominster District Minor Athletics**

We brought an outstanding team of Year 7s to the district minor athletics competition on Wednesday. Although there were a few nervous faces at the beginning of the day; these were soon turned into wide smiles as they succeeded and cheered on their team mates. The day started with Charlie W zooming into 2nd place during the 300m race, followed by Matthew G securing 1st place in the 200m. The girls continued this winning streak, with Eleanor Butler finishing 2nd in the 200m and Fremah B achieving 3rd in the fierce 100m race. Lucton were victorious in both 800m races with George J and Darcy C obtaining a well-deserved 1st place. Not only did Lucton do well in the track events, the Year 7s also performed excellently on the field events. We were all very proud of Scarlett P, who achieved 1st place in shot put despite her initial doubts. Hannah L and Zac P jumped their way into 2nd place in the high jump. The afternoon ended with the relay races and despite being faced by stiff competition, Lucton was able to finish second place in both races. Well done to all that competed; go Lucton!

**U12 ROUNDERS v Ludlow School**

With several of the U12s competing at the Leominster District Athletics Championships, several Year 6s stepped up in fine style. Having had a productive training session before leaving for the match, the
girls were a little sharper and more aware of how and when to make good fielding decisions with an excellent catch from Amy-Rose at backstop. By the second innings there were several well timed stumpings by Rachel at 2nd, Zoe at 3rd and Lois at 4th and sharper fielding by backing up by everyone. Ava (player of the match), Scarlett and Phillipa hit the ball with improved confidence and scored 1/1/2 rounders each, whilst Lois placed the ball well to scamper round for a couple of half rounders as did Rachel, Dolly and Zoe. Although Ludlow won 11-7, the girls will have learnt a lot about the game and it was really pleasing to see them play with greater focus and concentration in the second innings.

**U14 ROUNDERS v Ludlow School**

After a slow start, the girls picked up their game and having lost the first innings 8 1/2 to 2 1/2, employed some stronger batting and fielding to win the second innings 5 1/2 to 2 1/2. This wake up call will no doubt sharpen their skills for next Tuesday’s match against LHS!

**ROUNDERS v Ludlow**

Our girls were caught napping in the first innings although Ellie (captain) bowled well and Grace in particular took some exceptional catches. In the second innings we were much sharper and all worked really well together with many excellent catches—Ellie, Felicity, Molly and Amelia all doing their bit. Natalie moved well to back all up but no one played badly. Grace bowled well. Molly, Faith and Grace also batted well. Molly was voted player of the match but it could have gone to a number of the girls. We drew the second innings and really contained the big hitters from Ludlow but unfortunately the first let us down! Well done girls you were a pleasure to take out!

**Yr6 & Yr7 CRICKET v Bedstone**

An under-strength Lucton side struggled against a good Bedstone team in a 20 over match at Luctonians, falling to 66 all out in the 19th over. The Lucton batsmen couldn’t cope with the pace of the Bedstone bowlers and had Max Haller to thank for putting more than half of their runs on the board with some well taken boundaries, before a rash strike saw him caught for 34. James Hellyar and Michael Shea put in a good bowling performance taking a wicket each, but Bedstone only needed 13 overs to get the 67 runs they needed to secure the game.

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**Severn Valley Railway**

Travel was the theme for the Prep School’s outing on Tuesday, first by coach and then by train, as the whole school set off on a trip to on the Severn Valley Railway! We ventured back in time as we trundled along on the stream train, watching beautiful countryside go by. A highlight for the class was visiting the Engine House where the children got to let off some of their own steam on the playground before exploring the display of locomotives, carriages and other railway artefacts. It was then time to rush back on the steam train (and coach) and head back to school! Mrs Chapman’s class summed up the day in their own version of ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’.
Equestrian News

Congratulations to Scarlett for passing her C test although she was still half asleep after Hickstead!

HICKSTEAD 2019

What another amazing weekend we have all had down at Hickstead for the NSEA Eventers Challenge Championships! Four horseboxes, two cars, nine ponies, eleven children and eight adults set off at 5.30am for the five hour drive on the Saturday morning. Upon arrival, we made sure the ponies were settled and the campsite was set up before heading down to the main arenas for course walking.

Huge congratulations to all our competitors: Freya L on Scrumpy Surprise, Oliver D on Prince Henry, Scarlett B on Mr Socks, Hannah L on Oakfield Trooper, George J on Claughan Abbey, Jess L on Uncle Jack, Harry D on Boy Romeo, Archie J on Reel Steel and Megan F on Sallaghan II, they all rode brilliantly and both ponies and riders were extremely well behaved!

Everyone competed in their Team Eventer Challenge Class but unfortunately there were no placings; however the Mixed Height Show Jumping Team with Hannah L, George J, Harry D and Megan F were placed 7th and all received rosettes. Oliver D was also placed 3rd in his warm up!

Huge thank you to the Hellyar family, Lisa, James and Henry, who were a massive help to everyone from mucking out, tacking up, plaiting and cooking the BBQ!

The weekend wasn’t complete without a trip to the beach! We parked about ½ mile out of town and the nine ponies trotted down the High Street towards the sea bringing the traffic and locals to a standstill. It was an unbelievable experience; the ponies were all brilliantly behaved and we had all nine of them trotting along in the sea and up the beach.

Andrea Lawry

Jake’s Blog

We’ve had a quiet week so Ms Griffiths has been “tidying us up”! She has even pulled my mane which I thought looked lovely wild! We did a lot of work with hacking out in half term. Charlie boasted that he took 2 championships at Kingsland and it was great to see others there as well like Bea and Hannah. We have a dressage show to watch over the weekend and some of us will be competing! Well done to all those who went to Hickstead!

The Friends of Lucton School

This term the Friends will be selling, on the Prep School playground, ice lollies and ice creams on a Friday afternoon during the pickup time. This will just be an opportunity to enjoy a sweet treat as school finishes and support the school at the same time. There will be lots of frozen favourites, all for the bargain price of £1 each, so bring along a few extra pennies!

This term, The Friends are also collecting books in good condition for all ages; these will be for the Friends’ stand at the Summer Fete. If you have any unwanted books in good condition they would be very much appreciated. There will be collection boxes in the Prep School reception for you to drop off. Many thanks in advance!