



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

### In this issue

Governor and Senate updates  
School improvement news  
Linton learner successes

This newsletter captures progress made against our school improvement objectives over the course of the Spring term. It also includes enriching learning activities.

### Update from the Governors

The role of the governing body is to support the school's aims and objectives around how the school will develop and improve. Over the school academic year, the governors meet for a minimum of six meetings. At each of these meetings, the Governors review curriculum, performance, behaviour, pupil premium, special educational needs, finance and safeguarding. At each meeting there is a spotlight on one of the subjects to enable the Governors to get a deeper understanding of the progress that has been made and how this is benefiting the students. We gather our information through Governor visits to the school (these are usually held in school with a member of the senior leadership team), presentations and reports from staff and whole school report from the Principal. During these meetings, the Governors review the information and act as a "critical friend" by asking questions and looking at evidence of improvements and what impact these have had in all areas of the school.

This term we met as a full governing body to look in detail at the development of the curriculum to ensure that it has a clear and ambitious vision for all of the students. The governors were able to see evidence that the senior leadership team are investing a great deal of time and effort to further develop the curriculum to try and secure the best outcomes for the students at LVC.

In addition to this, we met to discuss finances, and Governors met with staff in school to look in detail at curriculum, SEND, safeguarding, pupil premium, finance, health & safety and behaviour.

Clare Gorman



### Senate Update

With the new student leadership in place, the Senate has been working hard over the last two terms to implement changes suggested by the students around the school. The senate is comprised of myself and Robin as Head Students, Isabel as Deputy Head-Student and House Captains and Prefects making up the rest of the student voice. We meet once a week as the Senate to discuss suggestions from students across the school and how they could be implemented. In the first term, one suggestion that we took forward was having more outdoor spaces available at lunchtime during the winter, as well as helping design a new house point reward system.

More recently, the Senate has liaised with the school catering team about food prices, and we have worked with the Eco club to plant more trees around the school site. A number of competitions have also been organised at students request, with the Basketball and Chess tournaments being especially successful.

Currently, we are in the process of setting up a student newspaper to share student news and celebrate students' achievements. All students are welcome to make any suggestions they have going forward – we look forward to lots of ideas to discuss.

**Ben Foote**

*Head Student*





## High School Musical

A cast of 67 students from all year groups, supported by a tech team of 6 students, performed in 'High School Musical' in March. The plot of the Disney musical encourages students to be individual and true to their own beliefs and interests. Feedback from the school community and members of the public was fantastic. The students were thrilled to receive a standing ovation on the final night. Two members of the cast, Isla and Hannah, were awarded Young Citizen Awards by the Haverhill Rotary Club. This award recognised their selflessness and leadership in the school community within the performing arts.



## Dance Show

A range of talent was evident at our annual dance show. This year's theme was songs from the movies. The standard of the performances was truly impressive, as was the number of costume changes and energy from the cast.



## Debating Club

A number of students across different year groups have been involved in debating and took part in the DebateMate competition led by our MP, Lucy Frazer. They debated a motion to reduce the UK voting age to 16. Ben in Year 11 and Will in Year 10 won the competition round judged by Mrs Marsh and Lucy Frazer and will attend the final at the House of Commons.



## An enriching educational experience

### Chess Competition

Two Year 7 students, Tony and Robert, ran a week-long chess competition in the library in February. After many rounds of games, Mohammed in Year 8 was our chess tournament champion and won a trophy as well as House points for Discovery.



### Eco Club



LVC's Eco Council planted a mini orchard of apple trees in front on the school kitchens by the Bowling Green. The tree bundle was provided through an application to the Young Tree Champions Programme. It extends the initiative shared at the COP22 event hosted by Sawston Village College last year. We hope that the blossom and fruit will be enjoyed by the school community in the future.

## Comic Relief

Mrs Merry arranged a programme of entertainment to mark Comic Relief Day on 17th March. Tutor time activities and staff sharing jokes was followed by a concert at lunchtime in the Hall. Students performed poetry, comedy and music and managed to raise over £700 for charity. It was great to see students stepping up to share and celebrate their skills for worthwhile causes. Thank you to parents who donated through the school's Just Giving page.







## An ambitious curriculum and high expectations

### Deep Dives

As part of our programme of self-evaluation and quality assurance, the College's leadership team conducts subject reviews every half term. Business Studies and Geography were the focus in the recent reviews.

The review is made up of lesson observations, learning walks, student panels and curriculum scrutiny, including looking at students' work.

The Business Studies deep dive demonstrated students' enjoyment of real world learning and topical issues. Behaviour for Learning was a strength and curriculum structure an area for further development.

The Geography review showed great curriculum ambition and planning and enthusiastic teaching with great subject knowledge. Developing approaches to assessment is a key focus moving forward.



### Curriculum Design

During this term subject leaders have been working hard to further develop the structure of their curricula. These high-quality conversations have included what types of knowledge and skills fundamentally underpin subject disciplines and therefore develop students' learning over time. We are referring to this idea as our subject 'pillars'. Each pillar represents a broader range of associated concepts and learner acquired knowledge. These pillars may have interconnected principles but each one should be distinctive. We intend to share these pillars with parents, carers and students in the summer term as well as publish them on our College website. We hope that by doing this all stakeholders will become more familiar with what makes each of our subjects original whilst simultaneously understanding how the curriculum fits together to provide students with an ambitious, inclusive and enriching experience.



## An inclusive teaching and learning environment

### Safeguarding Audit

Our Trust, Anglian Learning, conducts an annual safeguarding audit at all schools to ensure robust and effective practices. The Director of Safeguarding completed a review at LVC in January.

The audit involved speaking to a range of staff including the safeguarding team and HR Officer as well as meeting with student panels and reviewing safeguarding systems.

The feedback from the process was very helpful. It identified a highly skilled and experienced safeguarding team, who work closely together, a strong culture of safeguarding within the school, a developing approach to mental health and a PSHE curriculum that is well received by students. The audit also made recommendations for how to improve recording of safeguarding, especially for students on Individual Alternative Education Plans, which we are implementing.

### Reading Scheme

In addition to our whole school literacy interventions to support developing readers, Miss Harriss has introduced form time reading initiatives this term including paired reading and tutor time shared reading activities. We have also welcomed back our volunteer reading programme, staffed by members of the community.

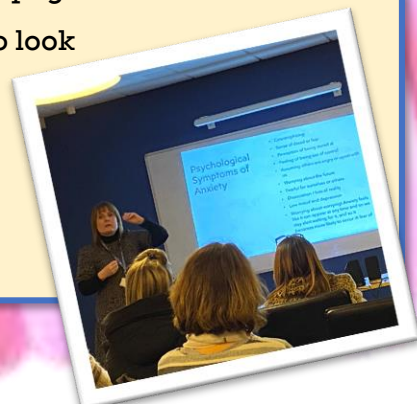
### Mental Health Provision

The College's Mental Health and Wellbeing team has led a number of initiatives this term to raise the profile of good mental health and to signpost and develop support on offer.

Our first parent information evening focused on stress and anxiety. Upcoming events include information and strategies to support with self-esteem and low mood.

The student mental health panel have been instrumental in shaping the provision. They meet regularly with Ms Hayes and have helped to develop student referral processes, including the LVC mental health webpages.

Boys only panels have taken place to look into why only 3% of students currently accessing mental health support at the College are male.







## Linton Successes

### Roy Burrell Sport Award

Each year the Cambridge and District Secondary Schools Sports Association host an evening of Celebration for Year 11 students who have excelled in sport. The Roy Burrell awards celebrate the excellence, participation and sportsmanship of Year 11 students across Cambridgeshire, who are nominated for their exemplary attitudes to school sport. Several LVC students were recognised for their achievements in sports at a district awards evening. Oliver in Year 11 won the Overcoming Adversity Award.



### House Points

To date this year, over 71,000 House points have been awarded in recognition of students' positive learning behaviours. The average number of House points awarded per student is 85. Lots of LVC students are working up the awards pyramid to earn reward badges with many already achieving bronze (80 points) and silver (125 points) and some already eligible for gold (170 points).

The top 5 highest House point scorers in each year group this term have been recognised with a Principal's Award and Easter chocolates.



### Food Exams

Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students cooked up a storm in their practical exams earlier this month. Menus were required to include starchy carbohydrates used in high carbohydrate international cuisine. The staff tasting team were very impressed by the standard of the cooking and the sophistication of the dishes that were produced in a limited time.



### Science Dance Day

We were delighted to welcome Dr Denise Walker from the Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge University at LVC. Dr Walker talked to Year 10 students about her research into neuroscience. A discussion about careers in science followed. Year 10 dance students are using this science stimulus as a basis for a choreography piece. Dr Walker is planning to return to the College to watch and provide feedback on the dances. The visit has provided a great cross-curricular enrichment activity.

