



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

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

Update from the Governors

The two newly elected parent governors, George and Ronan, have made a great addition to the Linton Governing Body. George has a wealth of experience in education, and her depth of knowledge around special educational needs has been a huge support to the governors this year. Ronan has proved to be excellent with his questioning at meetings, especially regarding the behaviour and mental health of the children at Linton.

During this term, the governor meetings focused on special educational needs, safeguarding, pupil premium, and the outcome of the parent/children/staff surveys. The parent survey results were presented at the July meeting. The key takeaways from this survey were communications to parents from staff, support with study skills, academic mentoring, revision techniques, and managing exam pressure. The school is looking at how to further support the children, especially those going into Year 10 and 11.

Post-lockdown, the school has continued to hold events such as parent consultations online. The survey results also showed that parents are keen for more opportunities to meet with staff in person to discuss the needs of their children. This is being reviewed in terms of how the school can support this for the new academic year. Disruptive behaviour of children was also highlighted as a concern for many parents. Sam Kerley has been appointed as the behavioural lead at LVC, and with the support of an external specialist, he has already started to make an impact with a strategy focused on supporting an effective, respectful, and calm learning environment.

The governing body and Friends of LVC are always looking for volunteers to support their work. If you feel that you have any availability and would like to support your child's school, we would love to hear from you.

Clare Gorman

Senate Update



In school we lead the weekly Senate meetings where we discuss and develop students' ideas for the LVC community. Democratically, we select the best course of action based upon the feedback of a wide variety of students. In addition, our roles include helping to lead events, such as the recent House picnics, or fundraisers. We will be presenting assemblies termly in year group assemblies and look forward to representing LVC at public events (for example open days) with talks, speeches and presentations.

In the coming year we hope to continue many of the most successful and enjoyed clubs and events from the last year, whilst also bringing new opportunities to the table, so everyone can get the most out of school. We greatly look forward to working with all students, to represent their ideas, and very much hope to see many new faces in the Senate next year.

The Head Student team.

Lilian Corbett Head student

Will Moss Head student

Rupert Warden-Hill Deputy Head student



Staffing Update

This term we say goodbye to the following members of teaching and support staff and wish them all the best for their next steps, which include moving to new roles closer to home, returning to full time study, gaining teaching experience and a change in career prior to retirement. I'm grateful to the contribution that these colleagues have made to the College over their time here.

Mr Simmons, Head of Business Studies.

Mrs Craig, part time Art teacher.

Mrs Doza, Teacher of Maths.

Mrs Horner, part time Religious Studies teacher.

Mr Rasmussen, Behaviour and Inclusion Officer (maternity cover).

Mrs Foster, **Mrs Cooper** and **Mrs Gilbert**, part time Learning Support Assistants.

Miss Barrett, Science technician.

In September, we are joined by the following teachers and members of support staff.

Mr Savill, part time Drama teacher.

Mr Szreter (trained at LVC), Maths and Physics teacher.

Mr Hodgson (currently seconded to the SLT), Geography, Maths and Business Studies teacher.

Mrs Wallace, part time Science Technician.

Miss Prevost and **Mr Prevost** (current Language Assistant and Invigilator), part time Learning Support Assistants.

We have welcomed **Ms Cherrier**, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, back from her maternity leave and wish Mrs Ayers and Miss Flack all the best for their imminent new arrivals.

There have been some changes to form tutor arrangements in response to these staffing changes which will be directly communicated.

School improvement priorities and leadership responsibilities

Our whole school improvement priorities have been reviewed based on progress made this academic year and feedback from stakeholder surveys. Please find our updated priorities for 2024/25 below.

1. Empower all leaders to drive school improvement.
2. Establish a culture of professional collaboration.
3. Embed Ambitious, Inclusive and Enriching teaching and learning and establish effective AIE assessment practices across the school.
4. Ensure that all students' behaviour is ready, respectful and safe in and outside of lessons.
5. Build community relationships.

There are some changes in the Senior Leadership Team from September following the departure of Mr Jenkins mid-year and to create balanced teams leading on Curriculum and Inclusion. The main change is that Mrs Matarazzo's main area of responsibility will be the leadership of the curriculum and assuring the quality of education, including overseeing the standards of teaching and learning. Mr Darby will become responsible for Inclusion, including strategic responsibility for behaviour and attitudes and personal development, including assuring the quality of pastoral care.





Enrichment week

LVC students enjoyed a great enrichment week full of extra-curricular experiences. During the collapsed timetable, Years 7 and 8 benefited from a programme of day trips, team building and cultural events that included visiting Thetford Forest, The Nuclear Races, Willen Lakes and the Imperial War Museum. Year 7s also engaged in a Caribbean day including a steel pan and dance session, cooking and art.

Meanwhile, the whole of Year 9 had the opportunity to spend a week away on a residential. Trips to the Peak District, Wales and London provided students with the chance to build relationships, visit new places and push themselves out of their comfort zone.



Midsummer Music Concert

A summer musical soiree showcased a range of talent from across all year groups.

The programme included our GCSE musicians, orchestra, Young Voices choir and an eclectic range of musical numbers.



Anglian Learning Celebration

LVC students took part in the Trust's celebration day at the official opening of Marleigh Primary Academy. The Jazz Band performed as part of the event and were commended on their performance by Michael Rosen, the guest speaker.



Picnic in the park

A number of dancers, musicians and cast members from High School Musical took part in Linton's Picnic in the Park on the recreation ground and were great ambassadors for the College.



An enriching educational experience

Linton Book Fest

LVC students benefited from workshops delivered by visiting authors and artists as satellite events to the Linton Book Festival hosted at the College. Year 7s were joined by Year 6s from Linton Heights Junior School for a talk from Julian Sedgwick about his latest book 'Tsunami Girl'. Illustrator and author Robyn Wilson Owen also ran a workshop for students on how to create ink and stick portraits. Lots of LVC students did a great job as volunteers at the festival too.



NYO visit.

Year 7s experienced workshops delivered by the National Youth Orchestra. They also performed a lunchtime concert in the school hall and worked with our orchestra during their visit to LVC.



Trips abroad

Our Year 10 Languages students had the opportunity to spend a week practising their spoken language skills and soaking up the culture on trips to Barcelona and Paris. Their itinerary included sampling local cuisine and exploring local sights in addition to the language lessons.

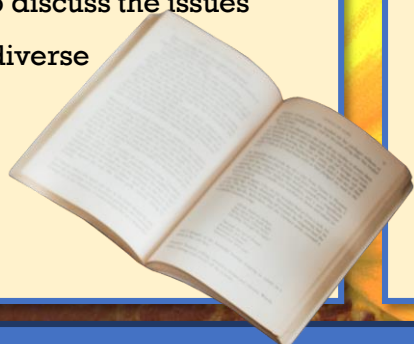




An ambitious curriculum and high expectations

Reading scheme

We are very grateful to a dedicated team of Year 10 pupils who have continued to support Year 7s to read, discuss and enjoy books. Mrs Hay continues to make the Library a vibrant and exciting space; she does all she can to promote reading around topical issues, publicise the latest in contemporary children's fiction and lead craft activities which often have a Literary theme! All Year 7 and 8 groups have enjoyed being able to use the Library in Literacy lessons where we have prioritised the joy of reading and the opportunity to discuss the issues covered in a diverse range of books.



Curriculum Design

The Teaching and Learning Team have continued to work closely with Subject Leaders this term on the development of our ambitious, inclusive and enriching curriculum design. We are really proud to be able to share with you the Knowledge and Skills pillars for each subject at the beginning of the next academic year. These pillars allow learners to develop a secure knowledge over time; key concepts are built upon as they are interleaved through the five-year curriculum. A shared understanding of these allows parents and carers to effectively support our young people in their learning journey. This structure will be a fundamental part of how we both deliver and how learners experience the ambitious, inclusive and enriching curriculum at LVC. Our focus next academic year is on assessment; how do we ensure that learners know where they are on their journey and more importantly, how to make progress. We will be conducting surveys with all stakeholders next term, please do look out for these.

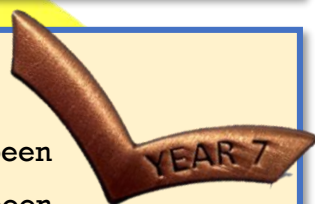
An inclusive teaching and learning environment

Behaviour update

Rewards Points This academic year, a substantial amount of reward points have been achieved by students across all year groups. Close to 100,000 House points have been awarded to recognise Linton Learners' curiosity, independence and responsibility. Students have also achieved their bronze, silver or gold 'wings' when achieving House point thresholds to recognise their hard work and conscientious approach to their studies. Furthermore 200 Linton Blue badges have been awarded to celebrate students' excellent learning attributes across the year. We look to continue the development of our rewards system next year, taking on board the feedback from students via the Senate's recommendations.

Behaviour Systems Greater consistency has been achieved this year through staff members developing common behaviour for learning approaches and logging behaviour events using Go4Schools more systematically. The renaming of House points to align with Linton Learner attributes has provided further clarity to inform students and parents/carers for the reasons for awarding them. We have been working on the use of common language by staff to communicate behaviour expectations in and outside of lessons, linked to the need for all members of the College community to be safe, respectful and ready to learn. The development of our internal behaviour digests and tracking mechanisms has helped to develop Heads of Year approach to pastoral interventions, including the use of Individual Behaviour Plans escalating to Pastoral Support Plans for students that struggle to meet our behavioural expectations. Celebration assemblies have taken place on a termly basis to share pride of students' achievements. We will continue to embed behaviour for learning training and systems next academic year to ensure that the College community is ready to learn, respectful & safe as we aim for all students to make as much progress as possible academically as well as socially.

Uniform Standards of uniform have improved this year with the majority of students demonstrating a pride in their membership of the College community in their wearing of correct uniform. We have supported families to address persistent uniform issues with financial support and with helping to find solutions. Year 10s have been wearing their black jumpers to show their transition to Year 11. Although there have been times whereby standards of uniform have dropped, we have recently seen the student body take pride in their appearance by wearing the correct uniform. Thank you to parents/carers for your support to ensure that staff's focus can remain on students' learning, wellbeing and progress.





Linton Successes



8m8s

The team of 8M8's who were appointed to assist with the year 6 transition events have been amazing. Each student, as part of the application process, had to complete an application form as well as a formal interview. Part of their duty included speaking in the welcome assembly, acting as tour guides and being on hand generally to ensure the running of the day went smoothly. They were all asked to create a profile to include strengths, hobbies, and any transition information which would help assist the year 6's in preparing for year 7. The 8M8s are very much looking forward to the opportunity of being in year 7 tutors bases from September and getting to know the new cohort.

Linton Blues

200 Linton Blues have been awarded in end of year celebration assemblies. These awards recognise students that have exhibited exceptional learning behaviours in their school reports across the year (averaging outstanding attributes). Over 30% of Year 7-10 students achieved the criteria to receive a Linton Blue certificate and badge this academic year.



Jubilee cup

LVC took part in a District Athletics Tournament against 10 schools across the county. Special mentions to Bella for the 300m, Craig for an outstanding performance, Isla for hurdling, Izzy for 1st place in discus and the year 9 girls relay team for 1st place!



Duke of Edinburgh

48 students have successfully completed the expedition section of their Bronze DofE certificate. This was carried out in the Littlebury area where orienteering skills were put to the test. Of these, 10 students took up the challenge of camping and walking in the White Peaks in Derbyshire for two nights. Despite 48 hours of rain, leaden skies and cows blocking pathways, students demonstrated great resilience. Next year this offer will again go out to year 10 students.

Silver Arts Award

Twelve Year 8 students are currently working towards achieving their Silver Arts Award. The award is validated by Trinity College, London. As part of their award, the students delivered Arts workshops in Castle Camps and Great Sampford Primary Schools. The primary students enjoyed the workshops and the teachers were impressed by the leadership skills of our Year 8 students.



Year 11 Leavers

Congratulations to Y11 from all of us at LVC, but especially the Year 11 tutor team. We are so proud of the maturity, commitment and resilience you displayed during the exam series and look forward to sharing in your success on results day. The Prom' was such a magical evening which allowed us all to share a fantastic evening of music, fun and dancing. We wish you all a wonderful summer and hope to see you all in August.

