



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

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

Update from the Governors

I am delighted to welcome two new governors, David Blackman and Chris Hine, who attended their first meeting in December. Both individuals, with children in Year 7 and older children that have attended LVC, bring valuable perspectives and experience to the governing body and we look forward to their contributions in the upcoming years.

During the autumn term, we've held two comprehensive governing body meetings. The initial meeting focused on exams and curriculum. Mr Fehr presented an in-depth analysis of the 2023 exam results, highlighting academic successes and identifying areas of focus to improve future outcomes. Mrs Matarazzo presented the curriculum executive summary in detail enabling the governors to have a greater understanding of how and where the curriculum has been developed and how this is enriching the educational experience of the children who attend LVC.

Our most recent meeting in December shifted focus towards reviewing safeguarding systems within the school and the dedicated efforts in supporting children who benefit from Pupil Premium initiatives. Responding to emerging behaviour trends remains a consistent item on our agenda. Significant efforts have gone into improving behaviour systems, strategies and approaches to address complex needs and to further improve standards of behaviour at LVC.

Governors have carried out their link visits, exploring various aspects such as curriculum development, Pupil Premium impact, safeguarding, SEND provisions, and behaviour. Link visits happen each term as it gives governors an opportunity to talk to a variety of staff and look at data and procedures in more depth. These link visits are then presented to the rest of the Governing Body through written reports.

As we eagerly await our Ofsted Inspection, it's crucial to note that while the school's direction isn't solely driven by pleasing Ofsted, we do acknowledge the significance of external validation. We are committed to providing the necessary challenge and support to assure advancements in the curriculum, quality of teaching, leadership and management. The Trust peer reviews that have recently taken place demonstrate the progress that been achieved in this journey to enhance educational experiences and outcomes for LVC students.

Wishing everyone in the LVC community a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Clare Gorman, Vice Chair of Governors

Senate Update

Here is a brief update on the actions of our student Senate over the last half term, during which, much has been achieved.

The Senate has conversed with the Friends of LVC about suggestions for how to spend funds to improve student experiences. Investment in toilet refurbishment, extra water fountains and eating in social spaces were recommended by Senate members.

Some funding has already been put towards the Magistrate mock trials, giving students the opportunity to fill many roles within a courtroom in a mock trial of a fictional case.

We should begin to see the impacts of this funding over the coming year and look forward to further conversations with the Friends of LVC, with many thanks to them and all involved in raising this funding. This team have also met out local MP, Lucy Frazer, who answered questions from many Senate members, providing a brilliant insight into British politics and government. Finally, the Senate has been working hard to try and ensure a broad range of festive activities within school over the Christmas period, helping to run or organise events such as the Christmas bake-off and Christmas arts and crafts.

The Head Student team. **Lilian Corbett** Head student, **Will Moss** Head student
Rupert Warden-Hill Deputy Head student



People and leadership enquiry feedback

On 2nd December we welcomed two Trust secondary head teachers and the Trust Deputy CEO for a peer enquiry day at LVC with a focus on people and leadership. The Anglian Learning blueprint was used as the basis for the day. The programme focused on school improvement priorities, leadership impact and staff workload/capacity. Twenty-five members of staff were involved in interviews and panels. The team also conducted a learning walk around the school. The feedback from the day is summarised below and will be factored into our school improvement planning.

- Staff feel cared for and proud to work at LVC.
- Curriculum development work is driving school improvement with pace.
- The work on increasing expectations and raising ambition needs to be embedded across all departments.
- Student conduct was calm, purposeful and respectful in lessons and around the school at lunchtime.
- Challenges faced by LVC are the same as those at other schools, including more complex student needs and behaviours and stretched resources.
- The Ofsted RI label impacts on community perceptions of the school.
- It would be beneficial to streamline and prioritise school improvement tasks, aligning curriculum and inclusion priorities.
- Improvements to staff communication and operational organisation would help with staff workload and sense of belonging.

It was helpful to have fresh perspectives in school to reflect on and recognise progress made on our school improvement journey



An ambitious curriculum and high expectations

Quality of Education Update

Subject leaders and their wider teams have continued to work tirelessly throughout the Autumn term to further develop the curriculum. This was recognised by the Director of Education: Professional Learning and Curriculum from Anglian Learning and two colleagues from Trust secondary schools who joined Mrs Matarazzo (Deputy Principal, Quality of Education) in a recent curriculum enquiry review. The aim of this visit was for our visitors to ask curiously, not judgementally, about how senior and middle leaders are developing what is taught and how it is taught across the curriculum. The line of enquiry was: how are all students supported in lessons and more specifically those with complex needs and those who are more able? The two subjects that formed the focus of the enquiry were Design Technology and Modern Foreign Languages. Enquiry activities included meetings with senior and middle leaders, lesson visits and student panels (in which students also brought their exercise books/work to facilitate conversations about learning).

The enquiry report reflects the rapid progress that we have made in this area of school improvement and commented on: 'the alignment between the Senior Leadership Team's vision and the way DT & MFL subject leaders articulated and presented their thinking'. It was also noted that it could be a model for other schools. Furthermore, the report comments on: 'typically very well-behaved students' and how 'students represented themselves and the school very well and were comfortable and implicitly confident in their teachers'.

At the core of the College's teaching and learning strategy is that we strive for all students to benefit from an ambitious, inclusive and enriching curriculum experience. Senior and middle leaders are committed to this as a key improvement priority.





Inclusive Culture at Linton Village College

Earlier in the Autumn term the College Safeguarding Team was involved in a peer review of safeguarding. The review was conducted by other secondary schools in The Trust and provided a platform to not only showcase the great work that is going on at Linton Village College in terms of safeguarding and mental health provision but to allow the sharing of good practice with colleagues from other schools. This was a hugely positive experience and shone a light on the strong safeguarding culture that is embedded in the everyday, lived experience of all stakeholders.

It was identified that staff have a clear understanding of their responsibilities towards safeguarding within their subject areas and try where possible to weave safeguarding into classroom discussions outside of PSHE lessons.

It was also clear when students were spoken to that they have a strong awareness of safeguarding and are positive about feeling heard by teachers and that their concerns are acted on in a timely way. Students understand that there is a need for commitment to and understanding of protected characteristics and the associated prejudicial behaviours.

The review process recognised that LVC have worked hard on a whole school approach to positive mental health, with a clear medium-term strategy.

The Wellbeing Hub was seen as a positive step towards providing safe, calm spaces for those students who find social time difficult to manage and a counselling service via Centre 33 has been put in place for students with specific needs. The review highlighted the college's 'work' and provided affirmation.

There are always areas on which to focus and, going forward we are focusing on ways to ensure that the PSHE curriculum allows us to react and educate quickly on emerging safeguarding themes and contribute to ways to reduce child on child incidents. We are planning an anti-bullying strategy and are putting together a Linton Anti-Bullying Alliance so that students can have their say on bullying. This strategy also feeds into our work on promoting kindness and behaving in a caring and responsible manner, in line with Linton Learner attributes.

An inclusive teaching and learning environment

Behaviour for Learning Update

Following on from last summer's changes to the house points, students are now rewarded by going "Above & Beyond" in one of our four Linton Learner attributes, with the addition of house points to recognise those who are engaging and participating fully within lessons. With a greater focus on improving attendance to support learning we have also introduced weekly house points for sustained or improved attendance. This term alone, our student body have achieved 30,220 rewards points at the time of writing. The following given for each of our Linton Learner attributes:

- **Caring – 1492**
- **Curious – 5004**
- **Independent – 6776**
- **Responsible - 5215**



This is a fantastic achievement by the student body.

Consequences have also been streamlined, with a focus upon our minimum expectations of being "Ready, Respectful & Safe". This makes it clearer for all to understand why a negative point has been logged and a specific consequence assigned to the behaviour. It is our ambition to improve behaviour through restorative conversations allowing students to reflect on their behaviour and make more positive choices in the future.

We appreciate your support in helping us ensure that students are regularly attending, ready for learning and respectful to all members of the College community.



Duxford Volunteers

Throughout the Autumn term, a group of students have been taking part in a Youth Volunteering Programme at Duxford War Museum. The students have been working with staff at Duxford to tailor a programme for future Youth Volunteers to work and help out at the museum. In return for their input, students were given the opportunity to sit in the cockpit of the Vulcan Bomber and got up close and personal with a Spitfire.



Enrichment Fair

Our clubs were launched in September at an Enrichment Fayre in September. As ever, our students were amazing at promoting the wide range of clubs on offer at LVC. It has been great to see the strong uptake of clubs by our students this term ranging from sports, arts, knitting, debating, Latin and many more. A massive thanks to many of our KS4 students who lead several of our clubs with professionalism.



Battlefields Trip

At 11 o'clock on Armistice Day, students had an incredibly special opportunity to mark the 105th anniversary of the end of the First World War at a graveyard in the Somme Valley that was dedicated to men in the 36th Ulster Division, many who died in the very first hours of the Battle of the Somme on the 1st of July 1916. Pupils visited a number of other memorials, including the memorial for unknown soldiers at Thiepval and the Newfoundland Memorial Park.



Careers Day

Our year 9 students had the opportunity to hear and speak to a number of career professionals this term at a Careers Carousel event here at LVC.

An enriching educational experience

Technical Day Dance East

Students developed their theatre technical skills during a day at DanceEast. The students worked with DanceEast's technical department and were given a hands-on experience of designing and operating lights in the theatre. We look forward to seeing these students being involved in the technical side of future LVC productions...



Platform 23

Platform 23 exhibited incredible artwork from all Anglian Learning secondary schools including Linton Village College. Fantastic artwork was on display from all year groups across the Trust. The exhibition took place at the Michaelhouse Cafe in the centre of Cambridge in November. Our students attended a private event ahead of the public exhibition. Congratulations to all LVC students who had their work on display.



Christmas Arts Showcase

Our students showcased the arts at LVC in our Winter concert. Dance, Drama and Music students performed an impressive range of pieces in a variety of genres. An art display welcomed our audience to the event. Congratulations to all students involved both on-stage and within the technical team.

MFL Carol Competition

In our MFL Carol competition, 'Feliz Navidad' and 'Joyeux Noel' carols were performed in French and Spanish by each of the year 7 language classes.





INDEPENDENT



RESPONSIBLE



CURIOUS



CARING

Linton Successes

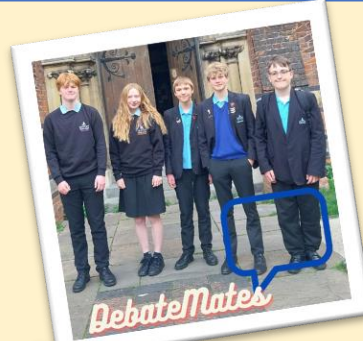
District Cross Country

The adverse weather conditions certainly didn't prevent some of our LVC students from achieving some amazing results at the district cross country event at Netherhall. There were some brilliant efforts and pockets of resilience shown from a number of students and on the whole a fantastic performance overall from team LVC. A special mention to Cressida who won her heat and came first in the senior girls' event. Also, Craig demonstrated an amazing performance and came 5th in the 8/9 mixed race. Maddox also ran an impressive time and came fourth place out of 80 competitors!



MP Visit and Debate Mates

At the start of December we welcomed government minister and local MP Lucy Frazer into school to speak to the Senate and Eco Club about politics and local environmental issues affecting pupils. The calibre of questions from pupils was commended by Lucy Frazer and her team, with some pupils encouraging her to clarify and expand her answers when their curiosity had not been satisfied! She also judged the LVC Debating Final, with eight debaters going head-to-head for a chance to move on to the Debating Finals held in the House of Commons in the New Year. Following their 'spirited performance' and well-evidenced arguments, two of our students Lilian and Will are set to face debating teams from other schools in the local area in one of the distinguished committee rooms in Parliament.



Sponsored walk

You may have spotted LVC students walking through the village and local countryside during our annual sponsored walk in November. It was great to have the whole school involved on the 12-kilometre route fundraising for the Friends of LVC. With the fancy dress theme of 'At the Movies', students and staff made an amazing effort and made the walk that bit more colourful. Friends volunteers did a fantastic job of marshalling the route. We are very grateful for the support of this amazing group of parents/carers and community members to enhance and enrich LVC students' educational experiences.



Presentation Evening

It was lovely to welcome back the Class of 2023 at our Presentation Evening at the end of November to collect their GCSE exam certificates as well as awards nominated by their teachers for academic achievements. Tutors gave some humorous and heartfelt speeches recounting their years with their tutor groups, many of whom had taken them through from years seven to eleven. After the speeches and presentations, guests were treated to an amazing spread kindly put on by the Friends of LVC.



Christmas Jumper Day

Thanks to the fundraising from our Christmas jumper day, we raised over £210 for Tom's Trust charity. Some students wore some impressive festive outfits!



TOM'S TRUST
for children with
brain tumours