

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

In this issue

- 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.



Senate Update

The Senate has been getting along excellently this term, and we're excited to see some of our newest ideas and plans springing into action! This term, our greatest achievement has been the push for seating in the common rooms – which is now in progress, after a few meetings with both the friends of LVC, and LVC staff. We really hope that people will enjoy this new feature of school, which - given the abundance of people who spend break or lunchtime in the common rooms - should see much use. This decision was the result of discussions within the Senate about how best to use funding for everyone's benefit.

This week, there has been a huge range of activities organised to celebrate Easter, and spring generally, with events every single lunchtime, organized by the Senate and House Leads. We've had crafts, a film, a bake sale, and even an egg and spoon race, with Creme Eggs, in keeping with the season.

We've been forging cross-curricular links this week with a visit to the Linton Heights by our Head Student team. It was great fun to present to the children at the Heights about the student leadership structure at the college and to take part in a Q&A session afterwards with the Heights' student council and junior leadership team. This will hopefully encourage future ambitious leaders who will move up to the College!

Finally, as GCSEs approach, our head students and House Captains (for the most part) will be vacating their roles shortly. We have begun to discuss the structure of the Senate next year, and the application process, which will be the focus for the beginning of next term.

The Head Student team.

- Lilian Corbett** Head student,
- Will Moss** Head student
- Rupert Warden-Hill** Deputy Head student





Empowering leaders through professional collaboration

Leadership Coaching at LVC

As part of our College improvement plan, we continue to support our leaders to be strong at every level. Our Middle and Senior leaders have all been working alongside John Kane consulting on a bespoke programme throughout the year to further develop a leadership and learning culture at LVC. Half termly workshops have taken place where both curriculum and pastoral leaders have been working on harnessing the power of collaboration, raising challenge and expectations, reflecting on evaluations and delivering impact and outcomes. The sessions have been warmly received and John Kane continues to support schools across Anglian Learning as part of a Trust wide initiative. www.kanevolve.com



Embedding ambitious, inclusive and enriching teaching and learning

This term we have conducted an internal curriculum enquiry into Computing and Mrs Matarazzo has represented the College on a curriculum enquiry team at Sawston Village College. We were pleased to see the amount of work that Mrs Chiy has put into re-designing the Computing curriculum with a clear focus on students' learning across five years. Teaching resources are available to students electronically and promote some independence.

We have also taken part in a broader curriculum enquiry which included SENCO colleagues from other secondary schools in Anglian Learning, plus the Trust's Director of Inclusion and Specialist Teacher join us for a SEND enquiry day. This enquiry focused on how students with lower prior attainment are catered for at LVC. Visitors spent time meeting with Mrs Garner, our SENCO, Mr Palmer, Deputy SENCO and Mrs Tooke Assistant SENCO. They spent time meeting with students on our SEND register and conducting learning walks in a number of lessons across the curriculum. The team also reviewed SEND data in relation to attendance, behaviour and academic progress. The enquiry team were very positive about our SEND identification process and the way in which SEND information was shared with teachers and the wider staff through student passports. They highlighted examples of effective inclusive classroom practices in which the climate for learning and the quality of questioning and adaptation by teachers were supporting learners with SEND to engage and make good progress. They also recognised the hard work of the Inclusion team in making strides forward with the quality of provision for SEND learners.

We are committed to providing students with an ambitious, inclusive, and enriching curriculum. Moreover, in the Summer term we will re-visit how to ensure that our classrooms enable all learners to be successful. Initially, this will involve looking at how we provide students with the support they need to understand what they are learning and then how we begin to gradually step back to allow students to practise on their own. In educational terms, this is referred to as scaffolding. Our review of scaffolding has already started with subject leaders discussing what works best in their disciplines and we look forward to further collaboration after the Easter break. Furthermore, we will also focus on our whole school reading strategy to provide staff with further training and approaches to help students with lower reading scores to access the curriculum and develop their reading fluency.





Ensuring ready, respectful and safe behaviour

Attendance

It has been very pleasing to see the overall attendance improve over the last half term and we thank you for your support with this. Over the Spring term we have reviewed our processes for monitoring attendance, updated our Attendance policy, and adopted the Local Authority's suggested approach to communicating concerns with parent/carers.

We continue to reward sustained or improved attendance every week and are looking more closely at punctuality to ensure that students are ready on time for both registration and lessons.

Please do remember to report absences to the College by 8.30am every day that a child is absent. This easiest way to do this is via email (attendance@lintonvc.org) or by completing the online Daily Absence Reporting Form, and providing specific details including any medical condition or symptoms.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, do let us know and we will explore what support we can offer.

Behaviour

Even with a shorter term, we have continued to see an extremely positive attitude by our student body here at Linton Village College. Students have managed to achieve a total of 24,205 reward points, which has included 1919 Postcards. As part of the Attendance strategy we have continued to reward students for their sustained and improved attendance as well as having a focus on reducing the number of minutes of lost learning, which have significantly reduced this term.

Caring – 684 Curious – 1906 Independent – 4442 Responsible – 1651

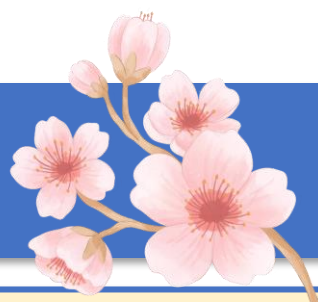
We continue to have a focus on implementing restorative conversations held by staff members. The purpose of this is to reflect upon the event and the reasons as to why it reached the consequence, taking into account the impact not just upon the student but also their peers in the lesson/social situation and the member of staff. It is also our aim to develop consistent lines of communication between all stakeholders of the College community so timely feedback is given and acted upon.



Building community relationships

Sports Leaders

Sports leaders from Linton Village College assisted Linton Heights with their girls football festival on Friday 15th March. The collaboration allowed all girls to engage in the 'Let Girls Play' festival and have a positive experience of the sport and physical activity, Linton Village College also hosted the second round of the bee netball league on Monday 18th March for feeder Primary Schools. A great experience for Year 5 and 6 students to develop and showcase their netball skills. Great Abington won the competition and now play in a district competition in the summer term.



Firework Cheque

In January we were thrilled to receive a cheque from the Linton Fireworks Committee for the Friends of LVC's contribution to the event. The students featured all helped with stewarding on the evening of the fireworks display in the village. The Friends will be investing this money into improving students' educational facilities at the College.



Debate Club

Members of the Debate Club attended Lucy Frazer MP's Schools Debating Final held in the House of Commons on Thursday 14th March. Our speakers did incredibly well, speaking in one of the parliamentary committee rooms in front of an audience of attendees from schools across Cambridgeshire in the debates that were adjudicated by Lucy Frazer and the highest-ranking lawyer in the UK, the Attorney General Victoria Prentis. Supported by friends and family, our two speakers, Lilian and Will, received commendations for their strength of argument and their confident delivery. Will achieved third place and Lilian placed amongst the runner ups out of the 16-strong field of participants. We were fortunate to have a private tour of the House of Commons by Lucy Frazer herself and the opportunity to pass through the voting lobbies as if we were voting on a government motion as our MPs do every day.



An enriching educational experience

Science Week

Each LVC year group did a different activity during Science Week this year. Year 7 investigated who had stolen Nibbles the crocodile, Year 8 took part in a science fair and Year 10 had a presentation on the wonders of worms. Some of the lunchtime activities included a rat dissection, dissection of a deer heart and in the 'Bangs and Smells' activity students observed a wonderful display of chemical reactions. The Science department also put on an after school escape room where students had to solve scientific problems in order to escape the classroom.



Dance show

Congratulations to all of the LVC students that were involved in this term's dance show. We have received an overwhelming response from our audience and a few of the wonderful comments are below:

"I really felt the emotion and enjoyed the purity the show gifted. A very special evening with a genuinely positive vibe."

"It was an absolutely outstanding show!"

"That dance show last night was something else. I thought last year was good but....."

Thank you to Blushed for tutoring our students about professional lighting and also to our student technical team for their excellence in assisting with plotting the lighting. Finally, thank you to all that supported the show.



World Book Week

Ex-student and author, Mark Woodley, entertained students on World Book Day with a book signing and chat over lunch, then a year 8 talk on the struggles of becoming a published author. Students were enthralled by the Lost Hammer of Darkerden featured in Mark's first book.





Linton Successes

Panathlon

Students from LVC took part in the the Panathlon Xtend multi-skills event at Comberton Village College, run by the Panathlon Foundation. The LVC team came first out of all the schools from South Cambridgeshire and went on to represent South Cambridgeshire in the county finals. The team came fourth.



'You had me at hello'

Another LVC achievement has been with our Dog Mentor Ralph who won the 'You had me at hello' award this term awarded by The Dog Mentor Programme. Ralph trained to be a Dog Mentor in the Summer of 2022 and lives with our Assistant SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) Katie Tooke. Along with Katie, Ralph also has five other Learning Support Assistant Dog Mentor Handlers.



Rotary Club Award

On 18th March, year 11 students Antonio, Rohan and Rishi were awarded with Young Citizen Awards by the Haverhill Rotary Club for their volunteer work in their local community. Their award was accompanied with a voucher and delicious meal. We are very proud of our students and the care they've demonstrated in their community.



Mock Trials

On the 16th March our student legal team – Vandhana, Bo, Tony, Mia, Ariane, Katie, Maddie, Evie, Andrew, Sree and Charles travelled to Milton Keynes for a Mock Magistrates' Trial competition against schools from around the country. This was a fantastic opportunity to experience being part of a trial in a real court of law. While the team didn't win the overall heat, our Magistrates Tony, Vandhana and Bo won the cup for best Magistrates and Charles had a special mention for being an outstanding Legal Advisor. Both our Prosecution and Defence Lawyer teams executed standout performances as did our witnesses and our Usher was robbed of being the best Usher in the competition! The whole team performed brilliantly and were fantastic ambassadors for LVC!



LVC becomes a Music Mark School

We are thrilled to become a Music Mark School. Cambridgeshire music invited LVC's music department to join the Music Mark programme this term in recognition of our commitment to provide a high quality musical education for all our students, both in terms of the curriculum offered and the music enrichment opportunities available.

