

Marsh Mail

So far this term we have seen some noteworthy successes that reflect one of our whole school values, that of having an inclusive cultural environment. It is very important to us at LVC.

Run by the Panathlon Foundation, a team from LVC took part in the the Panathlon Xtend multi-skills event at Comberton Village College. The LVC team came first out of all the schools from South Cambridgeshire and will now represent South Cambridgeshire in the county finals in March.

Panathlon Xtend is a programme for children with disabilities and special needs in Key Stage 3. Research shows that disabled children's participation in sport drops off in the Key Stage 3 age groups (11 to 14-year-olds). Panahalon started Xtend programme in January 2019 to make sure they helped keep pupils active and engaged after they leave primary education. We wish our team well.

Another LVC success has been with our Dog Mentor Ralph. The Dog Mentor Programme was devised by Jenny Duckworth the Dog Mentor programme founder. The programme has built upon the 'benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially'.

Our very special Dog Mentor Ralph won the 'You had me at hello' award this month. 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. Ralph spends his Thursday's bringing positive experiences to pupils and staff alike at LVC. Asking Katie what is so special about Ralph, she said 'it's the smile he puts onto pupil's faces, it's absolutely priceless!'

For more information on the Panathalon Foundation visit Panathalon.com. And for more information on the Dog Mentor Programme visit thedogmentor.co.uk.