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This newsletter captures school achievements over the course of the Autumn term. It also includes enriching learning activities.

Governing Body update

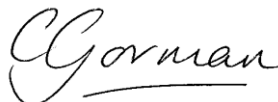
We begin this term with a change in the Governing Body. Peter Woodroffe has stepped down as Chair of Governors following a highly successful four years supporting the school's drive for improvement, which culminated in a 'Good' Ofsted rating. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Peter for his tremendous support over recent years. We are fortunate that he will remain as a governor, allowing us to continue benefiting from his educational expertise.

During the autumn term, we have held two full governor meetings. The first focused on the 2024 exam results. We examined each subject closely, and we also discussed the school's plans for enhancing pupil outcomes.

Our second meeting focused on Pupil Premium outcomes and how the school is ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils. This initiative is part of a Trust-wide effort to provide every child with the best possible opportunities to achieve strong outcomes. Behaviour and attendance remain key areas of focus for governors, as both have a significant impact on pupil wellbeing and academic success. Safeguarding continues to be a top priority across the school.

Each governor has a specific area of focus and conducts termly link visits with members of LVC staff. These visits allow us to delve deeper into specific areas and report our findings back to the governing body. So far this term, we have focused on curriculum, safeguarding, pupil premium, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), and wellbeing. Minutes from all governor meetings are available on the LVC website for stakeholders in the community to review. Wishing everyone in the LVC community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Clare Gorman



Chair of Governors

Senate News

In our first full term as Head Students and leading the Senate at LVC, we have accomplished many things and stayed steadfastly committed to providing a voice for the students and being an effective student leadership team.

Firstly, some of you may have seen us do speeches in LVC at our open evening which provided parents with the perspective of older students in the College and hopefully helped to reassure parents and future pupils alike that our school is the right place for those entering secondary school next year. We also welcomed the year 6 students on transition day where we talked to them about leadership and led some interactive activities with them.

Secondly, in October we led the Senate in organising the "Hello Yellow" bake sale which managed to raise nearly £250 for the Young Minds charity which aids young people and teenagers especially with their mental health. In addition, we have helped to organise the year 7 and year 8 discos which each have been successful fundraisers for the Friends of LVC. For Children in Need, along with the non-uniform day, we set up the 'bearpee' challenge – a contest between houses to see which one could do the most burpees in one lunchtime. This and the non-uniform day together managed to raise nearly £1000 for Children in Need! Furthermore, we worked with the Eco Club to make our sponsored walk more productive and impactful on the community by organizing a litter pick during the walk.

As the student decision-making body, we have enjoyed a Senate full of new and familiar faces taking part in successful meetings where we've discussed menus with the catering team and praise and reward outcome suggestions. We currently have 28 members and receive lots of suggestions from the general student population which allows us to truly represent them and to have input into the college ethos and community. We look forward to the new year and what it has in store for us and every student at LVC.

The Head Student team.

College Improvement Priorities

As our three-year College Improvement Plan concluded in the summer term of 2024, we have refreshed our school priorities. We have created our new plan that factors in feedback from our Ofsted inspection in April, the outcomes of stakeholder surveys and self-evaluation exercises. Our school improvement priorities for 2024-2027 have been designed around key principles about that chime with our core values of ambition, inclusion and enrichment. They focus on what we care most about at LVC: wellbeing, learning and community.

- A Ensure that all students access ambitious teaching.**
- B Develop independent learning behaviours.**
- C Grow our culture of belonging.**



This end of term newsletter captures progress made so far to achieve these aims. Outcomes such as improved attendance figures, reading scores and academic results are good indicators of impact. As are findings from Trust enquiries and other evaluative processes.

Over the coming months, we will ask for your involvement in various school improvement projects. Thank you in advance for helping to shape policy on topics such as home learning and assessment and to inform developments to our options processes and Linton Learner behaviour curriculum.

Ensure that all students access **A**MBITIOUS TEACHING

Trust curriculum enquiry update

This half term, we welcomed external visitors from Anglian Learning, Sawston Village College, and Bottisham Village College to take part in a curriculum enquiry. The enquiry focused on high expectations and ambition in Geography, History and PE. Enquiry activities included meetings with senior and middle leaders, lesson visits and student panels.

Our visitors were very complimentary about the whole school approach to curriculum design. They also stated that our associated materials are 'sharply conceived' and 'helpful'. Our subject leaders were praised for having ambition for their subjects along with how they professionally develop their teams. It was clear that in each subject, the curriculum is being developed to provide greater access to more complex thinking. In all lessons, very strong relational practice was observed which led to students being able to talk about 'what they were doing and understanding and when and how they are assessed'.

Our students were acknowledged by the enquiry team as being great ambassadors for the school both inside their lessons and at social times.

In the Spring term, our College improvement priorities will continue to develop an appropriate and ambitious curriculum for all, fostering independence through positive learning behaviours.

Inclusive Classrooms update

We welcomed a visit from our Link Educational Psychologist who led a session with our Senior Leaders with regards to developing a strategy for making LVC more sensory aware for students with sensory differences and to have a better understanding of autism. Teaching staff training took place to provide thought provoking moments about how many ways in which a classroom can be adapted to reduce potential sensory overload. The SEND leadership team has also developed a sensory audit tool which will hopefully allow us to have a more accurate picture of student's sensory differences around school. The LSA team have also had specific training on Heuristic scaffolding, where we are continually trying to develop a consistent approach in the classroom. This really had the focus on LSAs making the most impact in the classroom.

Sensory Difference	Potential Classroom triggers
TOUCH	Contact with peers or staff, feel of textures (wooden/plastic stools), feel of the wall while waiting.
VISION	Lighting, patterns on wall, floor.
HEARING	Flooring, echoey, unexpected loud noises, loud group work, changing rooms.
SMELL	Musty, mould, labs after experiments, perfume, sweat.
SPACE	Seating near students, coming together for demonstrations, queuing.



Develop independent LEARNING BEHAVIOURS

Careers Education update

It's been a busy term for the Future Pathways and Careers Team. Events have been held across our KS3 years with opportunities to learn and hear about different career pathways and how they got to where they are now. For our KS4 year groups we held for the first time, a joint post 16 providers evening back in October. We recognise the value of students being given earlier opportunities to have conversations with providers to start thinking about their next steps.

This side of half term we hosted with Form the Future an Enterprise Day for our year 8's. Students split up into teams and learnt what it takes to come up with a concept for a new business and how this can be branded and advertised. It gave all the students an opportunity to hone their presentation skills. Congratulations to the F.A.A team. As we come towards the holidays our Year 11 students and their tutors have been working hard in finalising their post 16 college applications.

We look forward to bringing our students additional opportunities to widen their understanding of the world of work in 2025. If ever you have time to volunteer and help us with hosting these events, we'd love to hear from you. Please do get in touch.



Positive Learning Behaviours

We are very proud to see that our students have made an excellent start to this academic year, working diligently across all year groups and subject areas. As we finish for the Christmas break, our students have amassed almost 50,000 positive points. This is over 17,000 points more in comparison to this time last year, as well as a sizeable reduction in negative behaviours across the college. A total of 305 students (38%) have only been awarded positive points this term which is an excellent achievement.

Mr Kerley and Ms Price have been working with the Senate on a new rewards system which will be launch in the Spring term, to which all students will access. Rewards will vary depending on the number of positive points achieved. We value our students' hard work ethic and wish to show our support in ensuring that all students strive for excellence.

With our new Year 7, the majority have adopted our minimum expectations of being ready, respectful and safe with relative ease. Students in Years 8 to 10 continue to show a caring and curious nature which enables them to make progress in their academic studies and be positive role models for the new students outside of lessons.

Thank you for all your support over this term and to ensure that we start 2025 in the same manner, please could we ask you take the opportunity to replenish pencil cases with stationery over the Christmas break.



Grow our **C**ULTURE OF BELONGING

Safeguarding Peer Review

In November, as part of a Trust quality assurance process, we welcomed visitors from other schools and the Director of Inclusion for the Trust, to look at our safeguarding practice at the College.

This was a very positive experience and allowed the Safeguarding Team to demonstrate how we keep students safe every day and how we work pro-actively to safeguard students.

Particular strengths identified were that there is a clear, strong culture of safeguarding demonstrated by staff and students, systems are in place to support and educate students around safeguarding issues such as bullying and there is excellent tracking and welfare support for students who are currently attending alternative provision.



Enrichment Update

The enrichment offer at LVC is something about which we have always been proud. This term has been no exception with a huge number of opportunities on offer for our students.

The year kicked off with Year 10 and 11 language visits to Paris and Spain in which over 90 students took part. As well as improving their French and Spanish, students also experienced the culture of the country from boat rides on the Seine to flamenco dancing and Spanish cookery.

There have also been several other curriculum trips such as over 100 students attending the GCSE Geography fieldwork trip to Stratford looking at regeneration. For KS3 there has also been a science excursion for Yr 8 to our local river and a Yr 7 and 8 computing visit to Bletchley park to learn about cyber security.

In addition, the Arts have been able to showcase a range of students' talents. 46 students have passed their Bronze Arts award and 7 students have received their Silver. Further examples include the GCSE performance at Dance East, the school jazz concert near Cambridge and last but not least, the return of the festive Christmas carol concert in Balsham church this month.

As well as trips and visits, there are also a huge number of opportunities for students to develop their interests within school. This term there have been 49 clubs on offer across a range of interests. From football, to knit and stitch, to yoga, to cookery, to the whole school production rehearsals of 'We Will Rock You'. There is something for everyone.

All of these enriching experiences have been made possible by the efforts of teachers and support staff who give up their time and go above and beyond to provide opportunities for our young people to develop into well rounded individuals. We would like to thank them for their commitment and look forward to all the exciting things planned for the New Year!



Grow our **C**ULTURE OF BELONGING

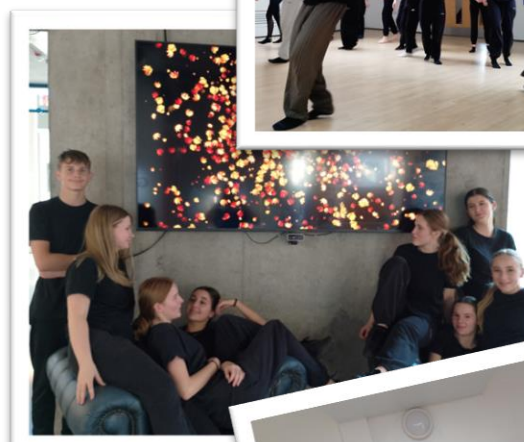
Enrichment Fayre

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 is been great to see the strong uptake of clubs by our students this term.



Dance Project

Year 11 GCSE Dance students have been participating in a highly prestigious project with internationally acclaimed dance company Hofesh Shechter II Dance Company. The project was aimed at sixth form colleges, so we were delighted to be asked to participate. The first part of the project saw our students participate in a workshop with the rehearsal director and two dancers from Hofesh Shechter II at LVC. The workshop enabled our dancers to learn professional repertoire from the current Hofesh Shechter work. Following the workshop, our students developed the material learnt in the workshop to develop their GCSE performance piece. Our students were fortunate to perform their choreographed piece at DanceEast in October.



Carol Concert

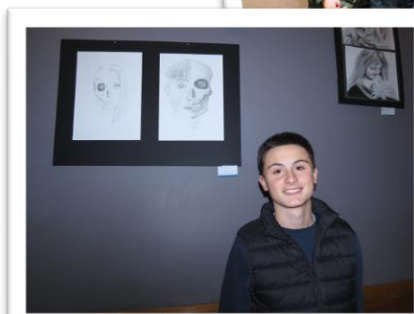
We were excited to revive our Carol Concert at the Holy Trinity Church in Balsham. Thanks to Reverend McColl's support, students had the privilege of performing in beautiful surroundings befitting the heartwarming programmes of classical and contemporary music. Over a hundred LVC students took part in the event.

The concert started with traditional carols accompanied by the Symphonic Wind Orchestra and an ethereal solo performance of 'Once In Royal David's City' by Katie in Year 9. The Concert went on to showcase our choir, The Linton Voices, The Tuesday lunchtime Jam Club and a range of musical ensemble groups led by our team of peripatetic teachers. The evening ended with a blessing and the Year 7 Massed Choir whose beautiful sea of voices sang 'The Greatest Gift'. It was a poignant festive moment.



Platform 24

Over 30 pieces of artwork by pupils in secondary schools and a sixth form across East Anglia went on display at an art exhibition in Michaelhouse Café, Cambridge. Platform 24, this year's instalment of Anglian Learning's annual Platform Exhibition, involved over 70 pupils, from year 7 to sixth form, across the multi-academy Trust's six secondary schools and sixth form. We were proud to have pupils of Linton Village College be part of the exhibition. Visitors to Michaelhouse Café could view the artworks between 11 to 23 November.





Introducing new staff members

We are fortunate to have a very skilled and committed team of specialist teaching and support staff members at LVC. In this newsletter issue, we are profiling three recent additions to our Science department.

Mr Young

What inspired you to become a teacher?

When I was younger I was fortunate to have had some incredible teachers who really changed my life. Becoming a teacher allows me to hopefully do for others what they did for me. These teachers inspired me to become a teacher myself.

What achievements are you proudest of to date?

I have been very fortunate to have had a number of experiences prior to becoming a teacher this year such as becoming an African safari guide, walking across America, raising £17,000 for charity and playing the sport of squash to a very high level. These experiences I hope have made me a more rounded person and teacher and I feel very lucky to have had them.

What made you want to stay at LVC following teacher training?

The people at LVC, the students and the science department form an incredible community that I wanted to be a part of.

Miss Willcocks

What inspired you to teach Maths and Physics in the UK?

Lots of things! I have been teaching in Australia for 7 years and I was keen to expand my experience, and I was excited by the challenge of wrapping my head around things like GCSEs. I'm passionate about growing as an educator and moving here seemed like a great way to have new learning opportunities. Also, literally all of Europe is next door! For someone from somewhere as remote as Aus this was a real draw card and I am (possibly foolishly) hopefully of a white Christmas.

What have been the highlights of your teaching career so far?

My first teaching role I was at a small school in rural Australia where students lived a significant distance from the nearest city. My site supported me to plan and run a trip to Melbourne where our STEM students were able to visit some top Universities, the Victorian Space Education Centre and ScienceWorks. They also got to have a 'Physics Day' at Lunar Park (a local theme park) where we wore motion sensors on ride and analysed the data when we returned back to school. It was such a fun week! Currently I am trying to see what great STEM activities are around LVC, we currently have a year 10 trip to Sizewell in the works.

What have you enjoyed most in your first term at LVC?

The roast dinners! We don't get those back home. But really what I've enjoyed most is how welcoming the staff has been, I've had lots of questions being so new to the UK system and I've appreciated the support I have received from so many people.

Miss Wells

What inspired you to teach Biology?

I have always loved science and the natural world; I can't think of anything more rewarding than teaching students how some of it works.

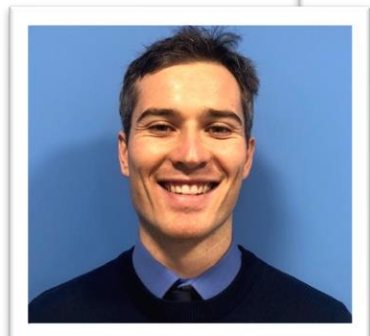
What did you do before becoming a teacher?

Quite a lot...I originally went to Veterinary school but decided that wasn't for me after a year. I changed my degree to Experimental Psychology and then worked as an Assistant Clinical Psychologist in child and adolescent mental health services. After that I had a brief period running my own vintage clothing and cake shop and then I decided I wanted to become a teacher!

What have you got the greatest job satisfaction from during your time at LVC so far?

Without a doubt getting to know the amazing students of LVC and seeing them get excited about Biology.

Mr Young



Miss Willcocks

Miss Wells





Linton SUCCESSES



District Cross Country

33 students from all year groups represented LVC at this year's district cross country competition at Netherhall School. All demonstrated great determination and resilience. Notable performances were from Cressida, who won the Y10/11 girl's race and Craig who came 2nd in the Y8/9 boy's race. Both, along with Maddox in Year 8 have qualified for the county cross country competition in January at Ely. We wish them the best of luck!



Bearpee Challenge

Students and staff set on the task of a collective 1000 Bearpees one lunchtime to raise money for Children in Need in the Pudsey Bearpees Challenge. Taking part in this meant our school was making a difference to the lives of children and young people who really need our help. The school went above and beyond and raised over £600!



Sponsored walk

Our annual sponsored walk took place in October and is always a highlight in the LVC calendar. The event is run by the Friends of LVC, an incredible group of volunteer parents and carers and involves the whole school dressing up and embarking upon a 7-mile walk around Linton and the surrounding villages. All funds raised contribute directly towards enriching student lives at LVC such as the Year 7 and Year 8 school discos, the Year 11 Leavers' Prom, new furniture in our common rooms and brand-new sound and lighting equipment for performances and for students to utilise for GCSE exams. This year £5,125 was raised.

Presentation Evening

It was lovely to welcome back the Class of 2024 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 LVC Catering Team.



Christmas Jumper Day

Thanks to the fundraising from Wednesday's Christmas jumper day, we raised over £210 for the Tom's Trust charity.

