



In this issue

SLT and JLT updates
School improvement news
Linton learner successes
Introduction to new staff

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

Trust Update

As CEO of Anglian Learning, the school Trust which supports your child/ren's school, I would like to share some key highlights of the work we have undertaken in the last few months. These activities have benefitted the pupils, workforce and communities of our Trust. Firstly, I was delighted to attend our Platform 25 exhibition in Cambridge which brings together artwork from each of our secondary schools. As usual, the quality on display was impressive and many congratulations to all pupils whose work was exhibited. My thanks also to the art teachers across our Trust for their support of the exhibition, which was open to members of the public.

We also launched Anglian Learning's long-term strategy, which has three main areas of focus: Belonging by Design, Great Schools and Connected Communities. Next term, I will share with you more information about this strategy. We have already started to drive forward in each area, including the launch of webinars to support parent, carer and pupil wellbeing as part of Belonging by Design and working in partnership with the Foundation for Young People's Mental Health. More details can be found [here](#).

We have been supporting the development of our school estate, using government funding to invest in EV chargers, refurbishing numerous classrooms, toilets and play facilities and, most ambitiously, working alongside the Department for Education to start the remodelling of Sawston Village College.

In January, we look forward to welcoming four new schools to our Trust, with one being Soham Village College. The school's vision and values align well with Anglian Learning's, making them a perfect fit for our community. We look forward to learning from each other and inviting their pupils to take part in our Trust-wide events in the coming months and years.

I wish all families a restful break and thank you for your continued support as we work together. For more information on our Trust's activities, please visit our website www.anglianlearning.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Jonathan Culpin, CEO



JLT Update

This term, the Junior Leadership Team has been busy making a real impact across the school community. We've successfully arranged for new chairs to be placed in the common rooms, working in collaboration with the Friends of LVC to create more comfortable and welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Alongside this, we have been planning a sponsored football match, which will take place next term. This event promises to be a fun way to bring people together while raising funds for a good cause.

Looking ahead, the team has also started seeking financial support for the redevelopment of the cricket nets. This project aims to improve sports facilities for future students and may include additional seating arrangements.

Overall, the head students and deputy heads remain highly motivated to lead the student body and make a lasting impact on the wider school community.

**Ruvi, Declan and Sree
Head Students**





SLT Update

The Linton Learner – Building Skills for Life

This September, we relaunched the Linton Learner framework, simplifying it to focus on two essential qualities: Caring and Independent. These behaviours are at the heart of helping students take ownership of their learning and decision-making—skills that will serve them well beyond LVC.

Why did we change?

We wanted to raise expectations and strengthen engagement by concentrating on what really matters: developing confident, responsible learners who truly care about themselves, and others.

What's happened so far?

- Students were introduced to the new behaviours in tutor time and assemblies at the start of term.
- Assemblies have explored some of these expectations in greater depth, such as habits and routines that build independence.
- Registration activities have helped students understand the 10 key statements and the rationale behind these.
- Go4Schools behaviour logs have been updated to reflect these two key behaviours.
- snapshot reports now reflect these expectations, giving clearer feedback to students.
- Every classroom displays Linton Learner and Presentation guidelines to remind students of expectations.

What's the impact?

Students now have a much clearer sense of what it means to be a Linton Learner. We're already seeing more thoughtful conversations about learning and stronger personal responsibility.

What's next?

We'll review feedback from the recent Code of Conduct survey and continue working with students to ensure these qualities become second nature, helping them grow into truly caring and independent individuals.

Mr Darby, Deputy Principal



Developing Caring and Independent Linton Learners

In September, we introduced a revised Home Learning Policy at Linton Village College, shaped by feedback from students, parents and carers, and staff. The policy aims to make home learning clear, purposeful, and manageable, while supporting students' independence and confidence as learners. Key changes introduced following consultation include:

- A minimum of one week between tasks being set and their deadlines
- No home learning set during holidays for Key Stage 3, and no tasks posted after 5pm or at weekends
- A clear structure on Satchel One outlining What, Why and How
- Consistent guidelines for the amount and timing of tasks
- A reduction in the number of resources attached to home learning

These changes have led to a more consistent and predictable approach across the College. Students report greater clarity and confidence in managing their time, while families have highlighted improved communication and balance. Staff have also welcomed the increased consistency, helping home learning better support classroom learning without unnecessary pressure. We are continuing to review and evaluate our approach the home learning to help students to develop independent study skills that we support them to be successful learners at LVC and beyond.

Mrs Matarazzo, Deputy Principal



Introducing New Staff

At LVC, we are fortunate to have a skilled and dedicated team of specialist teaching and support staff who make our school such a vibrant place to learn. This term, we're excited to introduce six new members of our teaching team. All of them bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and a passion for their subjects.

Mr Wood - Teacher of Geography

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

Getting stuck into fieldtrips, getting to know the students and absorbing the colleges' culture.

Miss Robb – Teacher of DT

What did you do before becoming a teacher?

A short 10 years ago, I was a student at LVC myself. After my first stint at University in Liverpool studying Fine Art, I came back to Cambridgeshire and became the DT and Art technician at LVC, filling some hours in the DT timetable as an unqualified teacher. Last year I went to Cambridge University to get my PGCE and now I'm back in the LVC community as a fully fledged member of the teaching staff.

Dr Boyd– Teacher of Maths and Science

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I was previously a professional scientist, and throughout my career I became increasingly aware of the importance of inspiring the next generation to engage with STEM subjects. I am particularly motivated to support pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups, who may not otherwise see science as accessible or relevant to them.

Mr Duggan – Teacher of Maths

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

Having the opportunity to support the school's enrichment offer by going on the Battlefields trip was amazing, and it was so rewarding to see what the students got out of the trip.

Miss Vale – Teacher of English

What did you do before becoming a teacher?

I worked at the Board of Education for a major city in southern Japan. I was a language teacher, a translator, an events coordinator, and a cultural ambassador.

Miss Beevers – Teacher of Maths

What inspired you to become a teacher?

At my previous company I ran work experience programmes on a voluntary basis alongside my main role as a Data Consultant and really enjoyed working with young people, hence I wanted to make this my focus.

Careers Education update

This term has been full of opportunities for students to learn about different career pathways and how people have reached their current roles. For our KS4 year groups, we held a joint Post-16 Providers Evening back in October. We recognise the value of giving students earlier opportunities to have conversations with providers and start thinking about their next steps. As we approach the holidays, our Year 11 students and their tutors have been working hard to finalise Post-16 college applications.

At KS3, there has been a greater focus on building transferable skills. Our Year 8 students took part in a "Skills in Action" workshop delivered by local business Illumina. During the session, they developed teamwork and problem-solving skills by tackling the challenge of building the tallest possible spaghetti and marshmallow tower. It was a great exercise in creativity and resilience, especially when structures collapsed and had to be rebuilt.

We also launched our Alumni Speaker Series this term, starting with former student Chris Negus. Chris shared his career journey after leaving LVC, which led to him becoming CEO of an international renewable energy company, Global NRG Advisory Ltd. He gave students valuable advice, including staying curious, building genuine relationships, taking responsibility when opportunities arise, and remembering that your first job doesn't define your future.

Mrs Scally, CEIAG Lead





Enrichment & Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

At LVC, we believe that learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. This term, our students have enjoyed a wide range of enrichment opportunities designed to broaden horizons, spark curiosity, and develop new skills.

One of the highlights was the two-yearly Battlefields trip to Northern France and Belgium, led by the History Department. Ninety-five students from KS3 and KS4 visited key World War I sites, including Essex Farm Cemetery and an Advanced Dressing Station near Ypres, learning about medical care close to the front lines. At Mansel Copse and the Somme, they explored the realities of trench warfare and its human cost. The Thiepval Memorial and the moving Last Post ceremony offered powerful moments of reflection on remembrance and loss.

Over 100 students also visited Bletchley Park, the historic home of World War II codebreakers. They watched a live demonstration of the Enigma Machine and took part in hands-on decoding activities, discovering how logic, mathematics, and teamwork helped crack secret messages. This experience highlighted the vital role of codebreaking in the Allied victory and its lasting influence on modern computing and cybersecurity.

Another standout experience was our trip to see Hamilton in the West End. Fifty students were captivated by the energy, creativity, and emotion of the production. The show sparked conversations about history, storytelling, and performance, and many students described it as unforgettable. We are already planning our next West End musical visit for the summer term.



Closer to home, enrichment has been thriving every day. With over 40 clubs running this autumn, lunchtimes and after-school hours have been buzzing with activity. From Chess to Eurovision Club, Arts to Sports, History Film Club and Yoga—there truly is something for everyone. We're especially proud to see a growing number of clubs now being led by students, showcasing leadership, initiative, and creativity.

Our Eco Club has been hard at work building bird boxes to support local wildlife, part of our journey toward achieving the Eco Schools Award. Science Club continues to inspire curiosity with hands-on experiments every Tuesday, and next term will see the launch of a Creative Writing Club for budding authors. Our Maths Team will also begin preparing for the UKMT Challenge during lunchtime sessions.

This term also saw the launch of our new Enrichment Challenge, which is already proving popular. The challenge encourages students to take an active role in college life: Bronze and Silver awards recognise participation in extra-curricular activities, while Gold celebrates leadership through running a club. It's a fantastic way for students to set personal goals, develop confidence, and gain recognition for their efforts. We look forward to celebrating our first award recipients later this academic year.

These opportunities are only possible thanks to the dedication of teachers and support staff who give up their time to help our young people grow into well-rounded individuals. We thank them for their commitment and look forward to all the exciting things planned for the New Year.

Mrs Frost

Head of Dance and Enrichment Lead





LVC is named a Trinity Champion Centre

Linton Village College is proud to have been named as a Trinity Champion Centre 2025/26 for our successful delivery of Arts Award/Trinity qualifications in Arts Award.

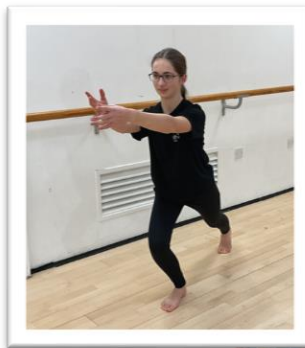
Trinity College London is a leading international exam board and independent education charity that specialises in the assessment of communicative and performance skills covering music, drama, combined arts and English language. Trinity Champion Centres inspire other organisations by sharing their practice and advocating for accreditation in their communities and more widely.

We are delighted that our Arts Award provision includes the delivery of the Bronze Award across our curriculum in Year 7. This provision was recently featured as a case study by Arts Award:

[Cultivating Cultural Capital Through Arts Award](#)

Following Bronze, students may then study for their Silver and Gold through our extra-curricular provision. The Gold Award is normally delivered by post-16 providers as it is awarded with 16 UCAS points, we are delighted to be able to stretch and challenge our learners at LVC with this qualification.

These photos feature work from our current Silver Arts Award students; this includes one of our Silver students leading Year 7/8 Dance Club as part of their leadership project.



Musical highlights

Students have been involved in a range of music events beyond the classroom, showcasing their talents and contributing to our vibrant school community. In November, our Jazz Band performed alongside musicians from other Village Colleges at the School Big Band Concert, part of the Cambridge Jazz Festival. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to share the stage and celebrate live music. 120 of our students took part in our annual Carol Concert at The Church of the Holy Trinity in Balsham. This much-loved event brought together parents, governors, and former staff for a wonderful evening of music and festive spirit. Another memorable experience was a trip for 40 students to watch the world-famous King's College Choir rehearse for their iconic carol concert, which is broadcast to millions on Christmas Eve.



Platform 25

This year's instalment of Anglian Learning's annual Exhibition, Platform 25, brought together the creative talents of over 60 pupils from Year 7 through to Year 13 across seven secondary schools and a sixth form. The exhibition was hosted at Michaelhouse Café in Cambridge, where visitors could enjoy the artworks in November. We were proud to have pupils from Linton Village College represented in this inspiring showcase. In total, more than 40 pieces of artwork were displayed, covering a wide range of techniques and media. From painting to photography, the works explored both traditional and abstract styles, reflecting the diversity and imagination of our students. The schools taking part included Bassingbourn, Bottisham, Linton and Sawston Village Colleges, Joyce Frankland Academy, Stour Valley Community School, The Netherhall School and The Oakes College, Cambridge. The exhibition was a wonderful celebration of creativity and collaboration across our region, and we are delighted that our students were part of it.





Linton SUCCESSES



District Cross Country

The District Cross Country event took place at Netherhall on 11th December. A huge well done to all the students who took part in the event last week. There were lots of individual successes across all year groups. One standout achievement was Craig in Year 10, who finished in 3rd place in a very challenging 4K course against Year 11 competitors. Congratulations also go to Florence in Year 7, Lily in Year 10, Maddox in Year 9, Theo in Year 9, and Owen in Year 7 for achieving top ten results. All of these students are through to the next round in January. Good luck to everyone, and thank you for showing enthusiasm, positivity, and great team spirit on the day.

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.



Presentation Evening

It was lovely to welcome back the Class of 2025 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.



Christmas Charity Fundraising

Christmas Jumper Day was another great success this year. Students arrived in a wonderful variety of festive jumpers, embracing the Christmas spirit with enthusiasm. Staff joined in too, with the HMC team leading the way as always. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised an impressive £359 for Save the Children. The day also featured our traditional Christmas lunch, a great opportunity to bring everyone together and celebrate the season. In addition, led by Mrs Darvill, we supported another important cause through our Christmas Shoebox Appeal for the Cambridge Housing Society (CHS), an independent housing association with more than 3,000 homes across Cambridge and Cambridgeshire. This initiative helps ensure that every young person living in CHS accommodation has a gift to open on Christmas Day.

