



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL  
WE AIM FOR HIGHER THINGS

# PEGASUS NEWS

*April 2019*

## GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD

The vitality of our commitment to a well-rounded education for all our pupils has been strikingly evident during this term. One only needs to look through these pages to realise how busy the pupils and staff have been and it has been impossible to capture all the adventures and learning that they have experienced.

I have had the privilege of seeing virtually every age-group in the School performing in some capacity this term. Our wonderful Early Years pupils led our Mother's Day celebrations with beautiful words, actions and songs and demonstrated remarkable confidence. I must also refer to the spectacular 'What a Knight!' Pupils in Years 3 and 4 rose to the challenge and every single one shone in their own individual and special way. The Spring Concerts highlighted the depth of talent across our School. There were some sensational performances from our accomplished musicians as well as those that had only recently embarked on learning an instrument. Mention must also go to those that have achieved success on the sports field and made real progress in the swimming pool and even on the ski-slopes!

Earlier this term, I was delighted to announce the names of the Head Boy and Head Girl of the Senior School and Heads and Deputies for the Prep School and it has been fantastic to see them assume these positions of responsibility and leadership.



Our topic-based approach to the curriculum in the Prep School has been designed to inspire learning and challenge the inquisitiveness of our pupils; and it is proving to be a real success. It was wonderful seeing so many parents at the Creative Curriculum Showcase where the children were clearly so very proud of their work. Senior pupils have been working hard across all subjects and I would particularly like to wish the Year 11 students all the best for their GCSEs in what will be a very busy and exciting summer term for us all.

Miss Nijjar

# CAREERS

Year 10 enjoyed a Skills for Life session run by our tutor from 'Learning to Work' and a business volunteer who both have a wealth of experience of life out in the work place. The group were treated to superb presentations regarding first impressions, CVs, interview techniques and transferable skills – looking at what employers want from prospective employees. Year 9 attended a careers fair where they had the chance to have a Q and A session with a number of employers ranging from Law to apprenticeships and the morning opened the students' eyes to the wide range of options open to them post GCSE.



## *Work Experience*

Our Year 10 students had the opportunity to spend a week away from school out on work experience. Our students were placed in a wide variety of different work places, including solicitors, educational settings, mechanics, pharmacies and dental surgeries.

On visiting them 'at work' and speaking to their employers, it was clear that it had been a very positive experience for the students. Many had the opportunity to see some very interesting aspects of their respective workplace, and all of the students realised that being at work is not always easy!



## *Sky Sports News*

Young members of Radio & TV Skills Club welcomed a very special guest from Sky Sports News to Long Close School. Reporter and Presenter, Dharmesh Sheth, gave an insight into presenting in the studio and on location reporting. He also provided great tips on how to overcome nerves and gave techniques to memorise key points to cover in sports bulletins. The pupils then had the unique opportunity to interview Dharmesh, followed by a Q&A.



## *WW2 Assembly*

Year 5 researched and delivered a comprehensive assembly about World War 2 demonstrating how much History they had learned using their scrapbooks, Blitz city-scape artworks and home-made gas mask boxes as props. Some were dressed as evacuees and they explained how boys and girls were sent to the countryside which was especially relevant as Long Close School was originally founded for evacuees. All the year group then sang classic songs from the era.



## *First Aid*

Pupils in Years 3-11 learned invaluable first aid skills in hands-on training sessions delivered by external experts. The older students learned CPR technique as well as how to place someone in the recovery position. The chief executive of the British Red Cross has hailed the importance of first aid education: 'Future generations will now have the simple yet vital first aid skills, which could mean the difference between life and death in a first aid emergency.'

## *Chinese New Year*

At Long Close we are proud of developing the children's cultural and global awareness by celebrating festivals from different countries and religions. Chinese New Year was a real highlight this term with the Reception children dancing with their Chinese dragon and celebrating the arrival of the Year of the Pig.



## *GCSEs*

Long Close GCSE results in 2018 confirmed us as clearly the best performing non-selective school in Slough in the DfE rankings. Congratulations to teachers and students for their hard work and dedication.

Year 11 students and parents enjoyed a talk from Miss Nijjar about how to revise effectively and we wish them all the best for their upcoming exams. All Year 10 and 11 students took part in an "Ace your Exams" workshop led by 'Elevate'. Our guest speaker Kwame was engaging and really encouraged pupils to think about their revision techniques in order to be able to perform strongly in their exams.

# DT

In DT, we started a project where we made a cushion cover with our own unique design. First, we learnt about different natural and synthetic fibres and fabrics and their properties. We then investigated different methods of dyeing and decorating fabrics, whilst learning how to use a sewing machine.

Later on, we drew and coloured several designs with two different patterns using repeating shapes and lines. We then created two collagraph printing blocks in order to print onto cotton fabric. Finally, we used the sewing machine to construct our cushion cover, which we later evaluated.

Anisha & Simran: Year 7



## DVD Storage Boxes

Recently in Design Technology we have been designing and making a DVD storage box, looking at various manufactured timbers, their uses and properties. We then produced several designs using isometric paper to help illustrate our ideas. We have also developed several woodworking skills, learning how to use a tenon and coping saw accurately and safely, before finally we put everything into action, decorating and finished the product to take home with us.

- Vishaali: Year 8.

## Mountfitchet Castle

This trip was a great opportunity for Year 6 students to experience a fully restored Norman 'Motte and Bailey' Castle, as well as being immersed in what life was like during the Medieval Period,





## *Judge a book by its cover!*

Many congratulations to the winners of the 'Judge a Book by its Cover' competition which was organised by Mrs Rees for Years 1-10. The display has really brightened the Hall and it was fantastic to see the children's creativity. Every Year group was involved in creating a book cover and 'blurb' for one of their favourite books. This encouraged a huge amount of discussion about which books are our favourites and how publishers persuade us to buy new titles. One overall winner was selected from each year group and it was wonderful to award a certificate and book voucher prize to them in our Senior and Prep assemblies!

## *'To be or not to be'*

Students in Years 9 & 10 have been memorising some of the Bard's most famous works in qualifying heats for the ISA Shakespeare monologues competition. Congratulations to Aya & Abhinav who will now represent Long Close.

## *Science Week*

'Mad Science' provided an assembly to Prep school students, providing a series of tests and experiments, exploring what forces a rocket has to work against in order to take off as well as what forces it can work with in order to help it.

Year 8 students were investigating heat transfer by conduction through several different materials, and Year 4 students created posters to enter into a competition held by the British Science Association.



## Creative Writing

Miss Owens has selected two Year 8 extracts to demonstrate the power of the children's writing. We hope you enjoy reading them...

F.E.A.R. has two meanings -

Forget Everything And Run

or Face Everything and Rise

The choice is yours.

I'm so scared. So very, very scared.

The conscription letter arrived last week, turning up in my parents' mailbox like a ghostly harbinger of death. I'd stared at it for the longest time, the crisp paper crinkling at the edges as I crumpled it in my palm. I'd refused to believe that this had now become my reality. Before, the war had seemed like a rather far away thing, something that was touched on and shoved in our faces, but not something that I could ever one day become a part of. Even after reading all the propaganda posters, I'd stayed true to my morals. I would not and will not take the life of an innocent man, albeit one from an enemy country.

I do not consider the Germans as evil. The only thing that separates our two countries is a line drawn on a map, one that has been redrawn over and over again across many centuries. I find it rather foolish that something as absurd as trying to enlarge the spaces inside those lines should lead nations to war and claim the lives of so many young men.

I'm writing to tell you that you still have a choice. Unless you are conscripted, stay home! It has only been a day here at the front, and yet my boots are already caked with mud and my feet soaked through with icy water. I do indeed fear censorship from the higher-ups, but at the same time the message I intend to convey is too important to be left unsaid.

Best regards,

Your favourite brother

Written by Sitian



My dear brother Henry,

The last time I saw you, well... life was very different from how it is now. A year ago, I was off to university, yet a lot has happened since then. I couldn't walk the streets without seeing, 'Your country needs you!' When I tried to talk to mum and dad or even my friends, the same response - "it'll be an adventure".

So, I decided that it was my duty to do my country proud and sign up for the 'adventure of a lifetime'. I can't believe I let them get to me like that. Ever since Britain announced they'd joined the war, I never wanted anything to do with it.

I have been on the front line several months now and have managed to make one friend. I have known him for less than a year, yet he is the only one who I can call a friend. Two days ago he got shot in the throat right in front of my eyes. From that moment on I have known I have very little time left. Today we had a few moments when the guns stopped - I snuck out with a pen and paper and decided I would write this letter to you. A small victory.

You see that's the difference between them and me. For them, people being killed, it's all a game. I hope you now understand the hard truth about war - soldiers suffering on a daily basis; young people dying; it's never worth it.

I know this letter probably won't be sent to you due to censorship as they don't want everyone to see the realities of this war.

Your beloved brother

Jonathon

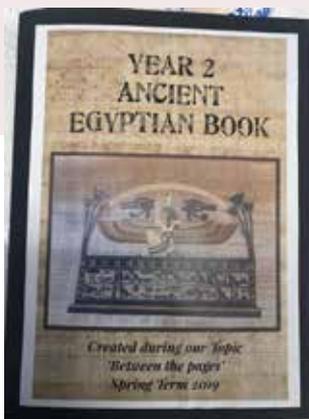
Written by Hershel

## Creative Curriculum

The Prep children are really embracing our topic approach to learning which is stimulating their curiosity about the world around them and introducing concepts from History, Science and Geography. This term the variety has been fantastic with Year 4 studying Native Americans, Year 2 Ancient Egypt and Year 1 exploring The Sea. Parents really enjoyed the Curriculum Showcase day where they got to share in an activity with their children.

## Ancient Egypt

The Year 2 Ancient Egyptian book is complete! The children learnt about how papyrus was made and created their own by gluing strips of parchment together. Once dry they wrote a sentence in hieroglyphics!



## North Americans

Year 4 have been busy researching and producing interactive posters about their latest topic.



## World War 2

Year 5 have been studying World War 2, and discovering various interesting facts. We all created 3 different pieces of work which we got to show Miss Nijjar. We made a gun used in the 'Battle of the Bulge', an elaborate homemade bag, a gas mask box and two homemade teddy bears inspired by the Propaganda campaign, "Make do and mend."



## Under The Sea

Year 1 have been learning about marine life and they enjoyed making shoebox aquariums, and filled them with various different sea creatures.



# MUSIC

## *London Trip*

In January all pupils in Year 9 and 10 spent an interesting day in London prior to seeing the amazing musical, 'Wicked', in the West End. On a visit to Westminster Abbey we saw where Purcell (one of our GCSE Composers) is buried, enjoyed a walking tour of London in the time of Dickens and saw all the journalists outside the Houses of Parliament.

## *Wellington College*

15 members of Choir from Years 5 - 7 attended the annual Prep Choral Day at Wellington College. 10 other Prep Schools from the local area took part and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet other children, learn new repertoire and perform to parents in the stunning setting that is Wellington College.



## *Spring Concerts*

The first week of March was a very busy one with 3 Spring Concerts - an opportunity for every child in the school who learns an instrument or attends a performing arts school club to have the opportunity to perform. Our KS1 students played their recorders, percussion instruments and sang and there were also performances from drama club and dance ensembles. Our busiest evening had nearly 60 items on the programme as we have so many keen musicians in Years 3-5! The Senior Concert demonstrated a real breadth of talent with solos and ensembles. It was great to see so many parents supporting their children - if you would like your child to have peripatetic lessons at school please do contact our Director of Music, Mrs Bingham.



## *Young Voices*

35 pupils from Years 3 – 9 took part in one of the annual Young Voices concerts at the O2 in London. This amazing event saw 8,800 children sing together in a massed choir, with soloists such as Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet and Sharlene Hector of Basement Jaxx. Our pupils behaved impeccably, had a wonderful time throughout the day and returned to school, exhausted but happy, at 11pm!



## *What A Knight!*

Years 3 and 4 took to the stage for their production which was a resounding success. It never ceases to amaze me just how many lines children are capable of learning, and particular praise must go to Aman, Safa and Saanvi, who stepped in and learnt different roles at the last minute, and performed them seamlessly. All the children did so well, and Year 3 were excellent supporting singers and dancers! It will be their turn for the speaking parts next year.





## *Learning Outdoors*

Long Close, as a Cognita school, is passionate about cultivating students' inventiveness, natural curiosity and self-belief and our enrichment programme of clubs and trips is designed to develop these transferable skills. We present our children with safe, contained but unfamiliar scenarios outside of normal comfort zones. The programme of outdoor learning begins with Forest School in the Early Years, where children are rewarded as they find logistical and creative solutions to interesting natural puzzles, all the time developing their communication skills, respect for the environment and leadership potential. Residential trips for Prep children in awe-inspiring woodland settings such as those at Bushcraft and Cuffley enable boys and girls to rise to challenges in natural settings and provide an ideal fore-runner to the DofE scheme which is followed by all our Senior students.



## *Windsor Castle*

KS1 had a fabulous day in the sunshine visiting Windsor Castle. They enjoyed the Changing of the guard, looking around the state apartments and sketching the buildings and finery.



## *Hounslow Urban Farm*

Reception recently visited the Hounslow Urban Farm. Students learnt about the many different animals found on a farm and even got to feed some of them. They were then given a talk about various different wild exotic animals and were brave enough to hold spiders, toads, African snails, cockroaches and snakes.



## *Grandparents in the classroom*

World Book Day was celebrated in the Prep School with children and teachers dressing up as famous characters and all children celebrating their love of books. It was lovely to have over 70 grandparents in school on that afternoon to visit their grandchildren's classrooms and enjoy some delicious home-made cakes. School has certainly changed since their day!



## *Easter celebrations*

It was fantastic to see so many families at our end of term 'Easter Eggstravaganza'. The sun shone and the children seemed to enjoy the treasure hunt, chocolate fountain and games stalls. A huge congratulations to Oscar in Year 2 who won our Easter raffle prize.



## *Ski Trip*

As we go to print, 16 Long Close pupils are on the Cognita ski trip to the French Alps. This is a new experience for the majority of the children who went for a practice on the dry slope in Bracknell - we look forward to hearing about their adventures!



# SPORT

## *Boys' Football*

It has been a very busy term in the Sports department, with some great successes across the school. Our Under 9 football teams competed against some very good teams and won a number of fixtures. The highlight for me was watching the boys go up against Thorpe House and demonstrate superb determination to win every ball.

The Under 11 teams also had some tough games, ending up with the most challenging game against Bishopsgate. The Under 13 football team had a very competitive string of games including fixtures against St James', Caldicott and Thorpe House. Finally our Under 16 team had a couple of fixtures- the most pleasing to see was the fixture against Claire's Court who gave us a very physical match, but our team matched everything that was put in front of them to win with a superb 4-2 victory. It has been great to see huge improvements in fitness levels following our hard work in PE lessons - and I hope all the pupils keep up with their regular exercise and activity.

Next term we look forward to the cricket and rounders seasons, with a packed calendar of fixtures lined up. We also, for the first time, have the opportunity to take part in some rowing on Dorney Lake for our oldest pupils! Exciting times lie ahead!



## *Slough 'Go Girls!' Hockey Champions*

The U11 hockey squad spent a fantastic day with Mrs O'Connell at Slough Hockey Club along with teams from 8 other schools. Hockey coaches from Slough HC taught specific skills and the concept of 'In 2 Hockey' to all the children during the morning and then it was time for the tournament. Long Close came second in their pool convincingly beating Willow, Priory and Godolphin but losing to Montem. They then won the semi final against Castleview 2-1 by applying the tactics of 'Get it! Give it! Go!'

Belief energised the squad and the players were confident as they went into the final against Marish. Long Close hit the posts three times and had the ball saved off the line twice but the girls did not give up – they were first to the ball every time, passing it up the pitch and gaining their reward with two lovely goals; with a third just going in after the final hooter! The girls proudly showed off their gold medals when they returned to school and presented Ms Nijjar with the 'Champions' Pennant' - Many Congratulations to all who played!

This term, netball has been the main girls' sport and it has been great to see skills being developed in both practice games and matches.