

Pegasus News

End of Year

2021



LONG CLOSE
SCHOOL

Message from the Head

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Without a doubt this has been another extraordinarily challenging year. However, it has also been a year during which I have seen so much evidence of the strength of our community and its ability to rebound.

There were occasions when we probably all considered any normal form of school life to be 'impossible' and yet, the year has metamorphosed into something that has exceeded all of our expectations. We have learnt not to take things for granted; realised the immense value of friendship, companionship, camaraderie and support that we are fortunate enough to have here at Long Close.

For me, one of the key highlights this academic year, was to see the whole school community reconvene after the second period of lockdown for the summer term. The need to operate in year group bubbles has been severely limiting but it was joyous seeing our children enjoying Sports Day, the creative opportunities for music and drama, the exciting residential trips and so much more. These moments were enough normality to create a good-feel factor and a glimpse of how school life will hopefully return next year.

I want to commend our pupils for being incredible throughout and I am immensely proud of for the way in which they have tackled national lockdowns, examinations, bubbles, remote learning and so much more besides. They have shown remarkable flexibility and such cheerfulness despite cancellations and changes, such patience when things could not be confirmed, such a capacity to make the best of imperfect situations and to settle into new routines calmly. For those pupils in Year 6 and Year 11 that are leaving us, we are very sorry to say farewell and hope they can all look back on happy memories here, friends made for life and fully equipped for the fresh opportunities that lie ahead in their new schools.

The debt of gratitude that I owe our staff is immense. They have not only had to adapt multiple times throughout the year between face to face teaching and then again to online teaching but staff within Senior School have also taken on an enormous burden in preparing for teacher assessed grades. In every phase of the School, my colleagues have approached their responsibilities with enormous care and dedication, determined to support our pupils to flourish, for which I am grateful.

Thank you to each and every parent too for your consistent and continuous support of Long Close throughout this difficult year, it has been enormously appreciated by us all. We have been tested, there have been bumps in the road and yet, as I reflect, I am humbled in the knowledge that you have appreciated our approach and worked in partnership with us to ensure that your children have continued to thrive.

Finally, I would also like to thank everyone for working so hard to keep our community COVID safe. We can be proud of our response to the challenges posed by the pandemic and ending the term without having to ask a single bubble to isolate is an incredible achievement against the odds. From a health and safety perspective, everything that we have done has helped to ensure that our School remained safe and able to operate through the most difficult of times. Our site team, admin team and Business Manager have been amazing, and we are indebted to them.

Reflecting on the past year, there is no doubt in my mind that we are much more than a School, we are a family and this last eighteen months has taught us so much – we have seen the very best of humanity here at School. Long Close is an extraordinary place and it continues to be my privilege to be part of this journey.

It has been an exhausting year and we all deserve a break. So, I wish all our families a relaxing summer, and look forward optimistically to the new academic year secure in the knowledge that our children are going to benefit from a return to normality.

Miss Nijjar
Headteacher

Reflecting on successes each year is so important for both children and staff.

We came into this academic year with optimism, promise and the prospect of normality. Despite normality not quite being the case, I am proud of our children's resilient attitude each day.

Having to learn at school, at home and back to school again is something that as a teacher and I am sure for you as parents, you never thought would be the case for your children. I want to take this opportunity to thank parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, neighbours for all your support throughout this year. It makes such a difference to us having you on board with your child's exciting learning journey at Long Close.

Our children have achieved exceptional things this year. They have found new friendships, discovered new talents and developed skills for life.

The slow introduction of school events was a personal highlight in the summer term. For many of the Early Years children and myself, this was the first experience of a School Fair, Prize Giving and Sports Day. Despite parents not being present, I believe we gave the children an inspiring end to their year.

I am so excited for what the next academic year will bring for us as a school.

I hope you have a fantastic summer holiday, I look forward to welcoming you and your family back in September.

Mrs Carpenter
Head of EYFS

Message from the Heads of School

As we come to the end of this academic year, it is with great pride that I can look back at the many achievements of the children. They have worked so hard and with every changing demands made on us by a new and challenging curriculum. The many values that have been on display throughout the year have particularly come to the fore as we end the term – resilience when tackling a particularly tricky problem whether it is in class or a problem between friends; courage in coping with changes; kindness and integrity towards all members of the school community; ambition to take part in all the opportunities they are given within the school – which all strengthen their character and their ability to make the most of every aspect of school life.

I have been so pleased that we were able to have so many events at school despite the Global Pandemic. Sports day, Prize Giving, Concerts, Skipping Workshops, Street Dance workshop, Year 6 Production, Year 6 Leavers assembly and finishing off with a Summer Fair! When speaking to the children at these events they are so appreciative and thankful they attend Long Close where we go the extra mile.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work this year. It has been a year of changes and they have embraced this with goodwill and continued to provide the best education for the children.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for their support this year. A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without you and your co-operation and backing.

Finally, I would like to wish all children who are leaving us at the end of this academic year all the very best on their journey. I know that they have all had a great start here at Long Close and know that they will go on to achieve great things in the future.

Have a lovely Summer.

Mr Charlie Tanton
Head of Prep School

This academic year has been the most challenging of my career and the last 18 months have been difficult at times. What I have learnt during this time is that dealing with adversity can reveal your strengths and can promote personal growth. I look back with pride to see the achievements of our students and the tenacity they displayed; they did not let the limitations of the pandemic stray them away from their personal and academic goals.

My highlight this academic year, was to see our whole school community unite to celebrate our achievements in “style”. The trips, residential, Prize Giving, Sports Day, acting performances and Year 11 leavers event, allowed us to celebrate our achievements and it was an amazing feeling to see “normality” in school once again.

I would like to thank all staff and parents for their support and cooperation this year. I want to wish all students who are leaving us the best for the next phase of their learning.

Well done to all our seniors. It has been a year to remember and one we will look back at and reminisce on our personal, emotional and academic growth.

Mrs Randhawa
Head of Senior
School

Performing Arts

LAMDA

Here at Long Close, we especially encourage drama and its ability to equip our pupils with exceptional communication skills and confidence. Indeed, all of our pupils express themselves thoughtfully and with clarity.

LAMDA examinations and participation in such programmes, in many cases, contribute to this. In June, twenty of our pupils were entered for their LAMDA examinations in a range of disciplines and we are proud to announce that we achieved 5 Merits and 15 Distinctions.

We would like to congratulate all of our students on their fantastic achievements; these results certainly reflect how hard they have worked. A special mention to Khyan Speding in Year 11, who achieved 95 marks (Distinction) in Speaking in Public Grade 4, which is exceptional.

We look forward to more LAMDA success in the future.

15
Distinctions

5
Merits

Scenes from Shakespeare

During Prize Giving Week, our students in Years 7 – 11 put on a brilliant display of 'Scenes from Shakespeare'. This showcased our students talents for the performing arts and was thoroughly entertaining. Well done to all who participated in this challenging piece of drama.



Performing Arts

Year 6 Production

We were treated to a spectacular performance from our talented pupils in Year 6 of the reimagined version of the fairy tale Cinderella. Boos, hisses, cheers and laughter filled the hall as the children took to the stage and showcased their rendition of Cinderella & Rockerfella. Our pupils exuded confidence and showed a natural flare for being on the stage. We witnessed some excellent singing, perfectly timed comedy and great acting from everyone involved and the audience was truly entertained.



Music



Music concerts are important celebrations of the talent within the school and Long Close is full of creative individuals. Our Evening of Music and Performance in July was a fantastic occasion to showcase for the first time in 18 months the variety of choral and instrumental ensembles and soloists we are proud to have. The standard of musicality was exceptional and we look forward to returning to a full calendar of opportunities for our pupils to perform both within the school and at external venues next year.

Music has always played an important part in our Prize Giving ceremonies too. Every year the audience in the Marquee is treated to solo and small-group performances by some of the outstanding musicians at the school. Congratulations to Khyan (Y11) who was awarded Musician of the Year in Senior School.



Sport

This year was another challenging one in terms of sport, with so many restrictions still in place. Despite arranging so many fixtures for both rugby and football, we were sadly unable to have the opportunity to play against other schools. This allowed us to work on a lot of athletics skills over the year, with so many key elements developed in all year groups. The outcome of this was so many records being broken at Sports Day.

When it came to the cricket and rounders season, we finally were able to get out and have some competitive matches against Dair House, Thorpe House and Staines Prep. All of these fixtures were welcomed with open arms by pupils and staff alike – with everyone enjoying the opportunity to pit themselves against some different opponents.

Some highlights were a superb rounders display in the girls final game of Year 6 against Dair House, a last ball win against Thorpe House for the Year 5 and 6 boys and finally seeing so many of our Year 3 and 4 boys and girls playing in 3 matches simultaneously against Staines Prep – something all the pupils loved!

Before our school year finished we were fortunate to be able to host our sports day at TVAC – while so many schools opted not to hold a Sports Day. The day saw many records broken across the school – in both track and field events. We even had the Year 1 and 2 pupils join us on the track for their events – which was hugely exciting for the boys and girls. The whole day was a superb success and really demonstrated Long Close at its best – competitive while still supportive of all competitors. The atmosphere on the day was superb.

We also were able to hold a sports day at school for our EYFS pupils – with many events tackled by all the boys and girls. Seeing everyone have a go at the sack race, running race, foam javelin throw, egg and spoon race and a target challenge was excellent – with all the pupils coming away with a medal and many many stickers!

Both events were a lovely way to end the year – giving everyone a taste of being involved in events again. Next year, we already have much planned, with more events, fixtures, competitions and new sports to take part in.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support with sport at Long Close.



Outdoor Education

Learning outside the classroom is a hallmark of Long Close and our pupils gain a sense of achievement through adventure, both off site and in the school grounds. So, once the government guidance allowed us to, we were straight on our way to a number of Bushcraft trips this summer.

Cuffley

Pupils from the Prep School had the chance to go to Cuffley for a day trip – taking on some amazing outdoor pursuits (even if the weather was a bit wet at times!). Everyone that attended were smiling from muddy ear to muddy ear and were raving about their day out.

Year 6 had a one night residential stay at Cuffley, learning a number of camp crafts as well as having a go at the leap of faith. Despite a bit of a down pour, the pupils were in high spirits the whole time and loved their trip away.

Blenheim Woods

Year 7 and 8 were the other group to travel to Blenheim woods this time for a two night trip, where they learned so many life skills and camp crafts. Both trips were hugely enjoyable and very successful– with all the pupils coming away with such valuable experiences you simply can't get living in an urban environment.



Awards and Accolades

ISA Participation

This was a year when we have been acknowledged by the Independent Schools Association (ISA) in a number of fields. In Senior School, we were thrilled that Sofia (Y7)) won 3rd place in the ISA Film and Digital Art Competition. In the Prep School, Jeevan (Y5) was shortlisted for his entry in the ISA Poetry Competition, Nihal (Y5) achieved first place in the ISA Shakespeare Monologue Competition and Maia (Y6) came second in the ISA Easter Egg Competition.

Winning entry 'Cat', by Sofia



House Points

This year saw our house competition go down to the wire with so many house points being collected over the year from all year groups. We hosted a variety of competitions including: Sports Day, inter-house matches in games lessons, art competitions, poetry competitions and much more, adding to our overall score.

Congratulations to Buckingham who came first. It was a close call between Hampton and Windsor with only 0.2 points between them, and Kensington came in with 95.2. Well done all!

Buckingham

99.4

Hampton

95.8



Windsor

95.6

Super Speller



Congratulations to Ekamjot who got 100% of all his spellings correct this year – amazing!

Art & DT

Spotlight on Senior School by Mrs Fragoso

Art and Design Technology are incredibly popular subjects throughout the School and we have many talented pupils. Creativity can be such an important tool in times of uncertainty and can really help students as a process or outlet. Throughout lockdown, students were making and developing their Art and DT work, with many of them deciding to use their time to create other projects or artwork outside of their lessons. TinkerCAD has proven to be a favourite among students to make models of chairs, airport plans and shop floor layouts.

Year 7 started the year reviewing basic skills in Art and Design. This consisted of focusing on key elements such as tone, mark making and shading. Some of the students had not had specialist art lessons before so this was enjoyable for all. From there they studied Pop Art and autobiographical art. In Design Technology they focused on designing and creating teddy bears which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, to Ceramics and a Graphics based project focusing on the students designing their own shop.

Year 8 created some fantastic self-portraits inspired by the artist Rinat Shingareev. These focused on use of colour and developing their drawing skills. Spring term saw the students explore the theme of Utopia/Dystopia, with a focus on artists such as Anselm Kiefer and Hundertwasser. In the summer term the students focused on the theme of Identity and created textile-based pieces inspired by Maurizio Anzeri. In Design Technology, students developed their own set design for a chosen theatre production, completed their own chair prototype and learnt a couple of different ways to create pop-up cards which they then gave to people.



Art & DT

Year 9 took on the challenge of a GCSE-style project entitled 'Natural Forms' which carried over two terms. They studied artists such as Georgia O'Keefe and Yayoi Kusama, and explored a variety of mediums, from watercolours and acrylic to 3D sculpture using clay. In Design Technology, students focused on a graphics-based project, researching and redrafting film posters and book covers, finalising in their own deck of cards. Students explored the idea of sketchnoting – where they learn how to apply techniques of mind-mapping ideas linked to a specific theme. This technique is very useful in their approach to revision for exams. In the summer term, students were tasked to design and create a model of Heathrow to then pitch to Mrs Fragoso.

The GCSE Art groups have produced outstanding work and maintained high levels of focus even through a very disrupted year. Students have shown great maturity in approach to their work and really taken on their themes independently and generated some fantastic ideas.

It is fantastic that we have such high-calibre art students at Long Close School. We have held online art galleries to replace in-person exhibitions, albeit digitally. When reflecting on the past year, we are very proud of the achievements of our students and are very much looking forward to their continued success in the next academic year.



GCSE Results 2021

100%

Achieved 5+ in
Maths & English

68%

Achieved 7-9
across all subjects,
compared to the
national average
of 28.5%

21%

Achieved a
Grade 9

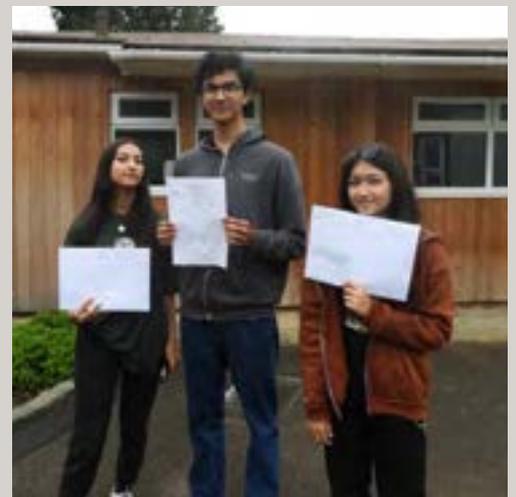
Year 11 pupils received a warm welcome back to school on Thursday 12 August, as they joined their families and members of staff to collect their much-awaited GCSE results. Despite a reduced number of hugs, an air of anticipation and pride filled the school, as pupils shared their result-revealing moments with their loved ones and school staff.

Indeed, the effort and dedication of our Year 11 pupils resulted in some superb exam results, reflecting strong academic performance across a wide range of subjects which will enable all our pupils the opportunity to progress towards their first choice destination for A level study with confidence.

Overall, 100% of pupils achieved Grade 5 in English and Maths and an equally impressive 87% achieving Grade 6 and above in all subjects. Other highlights included: 68.3 per cent of grades achieved were from 9 to 7, 43.9 per cent of grades achieved were from 9 to 8 and 20.6 per cent of grades achieved were at 9.

Despite an unprecedented year of lockdowns, and the many challenges associated with the global pandemic, our pupils deserve to be incredibly proud of what they have achieved during their time at Long Close. They have worked diligently and persistently, and we look forward to them keeping in touch and hearing about what they can go on to achieve in the coming years. We are enormously grateful to all the parents, who have provided outstanding support at all times, and of course to the teachers who have worked with, encouraged and enthused our wonderful Year 11 pupils throughout their GCSE courses.

Our motto states that 'We aim for higher things,' and this summer, both teachers and pupils, with the support of their families, have done just that.

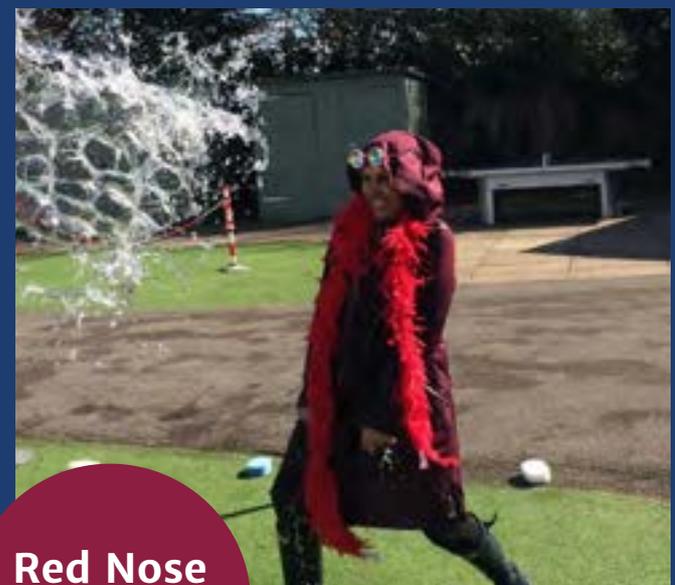


Charity

As part of our commitment to awareness, we seek to nurture a deep-seated sense of social responsibility. Our pupils know that there are others less fortunate than they are and strive to make a positive difference at school and beyond.

Over the course of the year children across the school have been heavily involved with our commitment to community work, whether that be the School or wider community. In the autumn term, the Prep School Community Fundraising Group raised an excess of £2,000 for various charities and supported Jeans for Genes Day, the Great British Spring Clean, Children in Need, Operation Christmas Child, Slough Food Bank and Macmillan Coffee Morning. In the summer term the group gave generously of their time and effort in leading a project to revamp the library.

Through all these opportunities for service, our pupils develop an understanding of the responsibilities they have to society. They also receive, in return, huge benefits for themselves which stand them in good stead for their life after LCS.



Red Nose Day 2021
£867.28

End of term celebrations

Prize Giving

Prize Giving is the culmination of the academic year, it is a chance to reflect, a chance to celebrate and a chance to give thanks.

A multitude of awards were distributed to pupils across the School for progress, effort and achievement. Followed by cups and shields and trophies galore, all recognising the diligence, school spirit, kindness, and contribution to school life that abounds at Long Close.

At the ceremonies, Mrs Randhawa announced the new Head Boy (Aariz) and Head Girl (Layla) in Senior School and Mr Tanton announced the new Head Boy (Eshan) and Head Girl (Aaman) in Prep School, who proudly took to the stage to receive their badges of office from Miss Nijjar.



Year 6 Leavers assembly

There was not a dry eye in the audience as we said farewell to our Year 6 leavers. The pupils shared their personal memories of their journey at the School and paid some very moving tributes to their wonderful teachers. Together, they have been an outstanding year group and we are all very proud of them. They have been a credit to themselves, their families and above all our school. We wish them every success in the future.



End of term celebrations

Summer Fair

On the last day of term the playground was transformed for our Summer Fair as the School community got together for one final time before the end of the school year. The 'seaside theme' proved to be a huge hit as pupils enjoyed ice-cream, donkey rides, face painting and simply relaxing in the sunshine with friends.



End of term celebrations



Dates for your diary

10 September	KS4 Transition Evening (Y10)
15 September	Early Years Welcome Evening
16 September	Year 7 Welcome Evening
21 September	School photographs
23 September	KS4 Transition Evening (Y11)
27 September	Year 11 Parents' Consultations
30 September	Global Be Well Day

Upcoming Open Days

Whole School Open Day
Saturday 18th September

School in Action
Friday 15th October

Year 7 Assessment & Taster Day
Friday 3rd December

In Person Tours
Pre-book through
<https://www.longcloseschool.co.uk/make-an-enquiry/> or get in contact with us below.

Videos from Heads of School & 3D Virtual Tour

Get to know the Headteacher, Head of Senior School, Prep School and Early Years through these informative videos, found on the website. You can now view our facilities online through our 3D Virtual Tour!
<https://www.longcloseschool.co.uk/admissions-and-fees/open-days-visits/>

If you have any questions at all, please do get in contact at:
admissions@longcloseschool.co.uk or call 01753 520095

Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term

Starts: Monday 6th September 2021

Half-Term:
Monday 25 October – Friday 5 November 2021

Ends: Wednesday 15 December 2021

Spring Term

Starts: Thursday 6 January 2022

Half-Term: Monday 21 – Friday 25 February 2022

Ends: Thursday 7 April 2022

Summer Term

Starts: Tuesday 26 April 2022

Half-Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2022

Ends: Wednesday 13 July 2022



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