



Dates for your Diary

Please see below details of sports and House events taking place this term:

Friday 5th April—end of Spring Term, school finishes at 1.30pm
Tuesday 23rd April—Start of Summer Term, students return to school.
Saturday 13th July—Lonsdale Summer Festival

A list of dates for the academic year can be found on the school website.

Whole School News

The Swimmer of the Week is Harrison B for going under water for the first time - well done !

This week the Silver Duke of Edinburgh students embarked on a trial expedition to Norfolk. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to the students and staff, who awoke on Wednesday morning with ice on the outside of their tents due to the freezing weather. This was quickly followed by quite a lot of rain, so the decision was made to return back to School and camp out for the second night in the School Hall. Once the students had defrosted, they quite enjoyed walking around Fairlands Lakes on Wednesday evening and continuing with their leadership activities, knowing they would be slightly warmer that night. Everyone stayed in high spirits and adapted well to the last minute change in plans.

We would like to share with you all some of the hard work and extra curricular activity that one of our students, Matt, has been doing over the last term. This week, as a culmination of several sessions of planning and rehearsing, Matt and his new friends put on a Songwriter Showcase at Stevenage Music Centre, which was an opportunity for local students to have the opportunity to showcase some of their own original song writing. Not only did Matt play as part of a band on the drums, he also helped in the sound and lighting team. Well done, Matt!

On Thursday afternoon, all of Primary and a Post 16 Class enjoyed a musical extravaganza in the hall. We were treated to singing by our Play Therapist's daughter Jasmine, a performance by Oak Class of Lonsdale does 'The Greatest Show On Earth' inspired by the film 'The Greatest Showman' and a bucket-drumming demonstration by Oak Class from their Music Day visit last week. The Voice In A Million Choir invited the audience to sing along with them to one of their songs from Voice In A Million, and last but not least we were joined by the Music Therapy Group on the drums!

Primary News

Ash: In Ash Class this week we have been very busy making Easter cards, Easter Nest Cakes and Ladybird Jelly in Cookery. We have been reading our Book of the Week, Fix-It Duck, and learning about the letter Y. On Wednesday afternoon, some animals came to visit us in school; we saw snakes, a chinchilla, some rats and a guinea pig. They were all very well behaved and were very happy for us to gently touch them.



Birch: We have had a very busy week, with lots of visitors! We finished our 'animals' topic with a visit from some real animals that the children all got to handle and befriend. We met rats, chinchillas, a rabbit, a guinea pig and a snake! On Tuesday 'Coral' came to do a dance workshop, exploring movement and expression in new ways. On Thursday afternoon, we were visited by a singer, watched Oak Class perform their version of 'The Greatest Showman' and did some bucket drumming! We have also had an Easter theme to the week: making cards and learning about the Easter story, finishing off with an Easter egg hunt on Friday. Happy Easter and have a lovely break!

Elm: Elm Class started the week looking at animal habitats. They sorted the small world animals into the habitats in which they belong discussing if they liked hot or cold temperatures, needed water or trees and so on. On Wednesday, we had some animals come to visit to finish off our animal topic. The children got to see a snake, chinchilla, rabbit, guinea pig and two rats! All of the children were interested in the animals and took turns to see them close up and touch them. It was lovely to see the confidence in some children grow to get close to the animals. For the remainder of the week, we have had an Easter theme running through it. In Maths, the children looked at patterns on eggs and worked on their describing words. In Literacy, the children practised identifying some rhyming

Primary News

words. They went on an egg hunt to find the rhyming pairs. They have also been working on their alphabet skills and identifying upper and lower case letters. Again the children went on a hunt helping the 'baby' lower case letters find their 'mummy and daddy' upper case letters. The children did this task with great enthusiasm and then worked together as a team to put them into alphabetical order. Our Easter cards provided the opportunity to practise the skills they have been developing in 'dotty' art. In Cooking, the children made chocolate-rice-krispie-nest cakes, which we hope parents and carers enjoyed.



Oak: Oak Class have had a lot of different teachers in their class due to Miss Rose being on DofE. In Life Skills, pupils learned how to use a Hoover, dust pan, brush and cloths to clean up the mess over the classroom floor. Great teamwork and logical thinking were used by all, it was lovely to see all the pupils wanting to get 'stuck in'. Pupils have also have made jelly in the shape of ladybird as part of their topic work on animals. In Literacy, they put on a play for sixth form and acted out 'The Greatest Showman', complete with clowns, strong men and jugglers. To finish off the term, they completed a quiz and took part in an auction, who could bid the highest price for the holidays?

Secondary News

CF: In Science, pupils have completed their mini-biographies on key historic scientists and their theories on the solar system. They have compared the heliocentric and geocentric ideas and will decide who had the best theory. In English, pupils have identified different literacy techniques used in William Blake's 'Tyger Tyger' poem. They worked in pairs and demonstrated excellent collaborative skills. In Maths, pupils have continued with their investigation of types of angles and have been comparing and ordering them by size, as well as estimating the measurements by comparing them to right angles, a straight line or full circle etc. In Creative, pupils made some Easter-themed crafts using origami techniques. Happy Easter!

JB: In Biology some of 4JB are still busy revising and have got a sample paper to complete over the holidays to keep them busy. Others have been studying the way that populations of species interact together as communities in a habitat. During Maths, they have learnt how to convert between fractions, decimals and percentages. In K&U History, pupils completed their end-of-unit assessment, writing a letter to a Holocaust denier. Students were asked to demonstrate their learning by documenting the events of WW2. In PHSC, the class finished writing their letter to Stevenage's MP to ask him to consider re-vamping public accessible toilets. The class sent letter, price list and design to the House of Commons and are eagerly awaiting a response.

JW: In KU this week, we joined pupils in 3CF in learning about the festival of Passover and the Easter story to establish how these two major events in the Jewish and Christian faiths are connected. In a change to the timetable this week, the class had a Drama lesson; pupils learned Drama techniques, such as Freeze-Frame and Thought Track and used them in an improvised performance exploring Autism. Pupils had to show through using performance skills positive attitudes and problem solving scenarios to support those with Autism; linking with International Autism Week, our PHSC theme this week.



MB/SH: In English, pupils have been sharing books with a partner and then identifying the characters and key events. In Maths, they have been continuing their work on data handling, this time with some Easter-themed tally charts and bar charts. In Science, they have been concluding their work on family trees, including learning about different generations. In K&U, they have been looking again at the Easter story, sequencing key events and learning about the range of seasonal celebrations we link with the Easter period. We enjoyed a walk in the grounds on Wednesday morning looking for the signs of Spring, and on Thursday we made shortbread biscuits choosing Spring or Easter-themed cutters.

MW: In Drama and Dance, pupils finished learning their dance to 'A Million Dream' from 'The Greatest Showman'. All pupils worked really hard to remember their BSL signs and combine these with new movements. All pupils evaluated their learning, using fantastic vocabulary such as 'focus' and 'imagination'. Mrs Woolley was away with the Duke of Edinburgh expedition for a few days this week, so we spent our time learning about family trees in Science, writing some spells and creating our own dragons in English—they were very scary! On Wednesday afternoon, we used our cookie dough to make Easter cookies, Jesse said "Mmmm, Cookies!" Throughout the week, we have also been talking about what jobs we would like when we finish school.

Secondary News

SP: This week in ICT, we have been making websites, learning how to link pages using rollover images. Most of the class have understood how to use the software-specific programme, Mediator. In English, we have continued with reading comprehension, and read an article about the Moon landing, answering simple questions. We also looked at signs and how they convey meaning without words, these included signs around Lonsdale School site and road signs. In Science, the class looked at their own family trees, ensuring they got members of their close family in the correct position. In K&U, we finished our egg baskets, please share the contents with all of the family. Enjoy the vacation, hope to see all the students on Tuesday, April 23rd. Happy Easter from the class team!

Upper

5LH: 5LH had fun during a recent Numeracy lesson about capacity when they made 'mocktails' using different proportions of orange, apple and blackcurrant juice with lemonade. They used measuring jugs and carefully poured out their concoctions for all to taste. In English, pupils practiced their letter-writing skills, responding to a job advert for a Knight of the Round Table in their Myths and Legends topic. During ASDAN lessons, they have been collecting materials to make bug hotels and started with the construction of one. They are hoping that these will attract more insects and therefore the birds. They have also carried out a stock take of the tuck shop as some items will go out of date over the Easter holidays, they are hoping to sell these to staff half price! Also in ASDAN 'Community Action', the class lead their first session of 'Buddy Club' with some primary pupils. Students had to design activities to promote positive social and communication skills.



5SN: In English we have been working on sentence construction, piecing together beginnings and ends of sentences, recapping the story of Mulan. This week, we shall be having a collective 5SN birthday party as four people in our class are having birthdays over the holidays, including two pupils who will be celebrating their 18th birthdays! This week in Cooking, the class made shortbread bunnies and rice crispy cakes, developing their fine and gross motor skills whilst decorating them and applying safety rules in the kitchen. In 'Keeping Safe', students created personal safety posters, highlighting the rules they should follow when out and about. In 'Growing your own Plants', students applied their knowledge of how the seasons affect plant growth by creating art work to symbolise this. In Numeracy, the class went to Marriotts' café to practice their money skills. In Literacy and Creative, students built models of King Arthur's Castle to support their comprehension of the story.



REP

This week students in REP have been enjoying a Wellbeing Week. On Monday we had Boccia club and candle-making, whilst some students went to Reading Club in the Library. On Tuesday evening we had two players from Stevenage Football Club come to visit the students in REP. On Wednesday we had a quiz night in REP and, as is traditional with quiz nights, we all had fish and chips, which were delicious! On Thursday the REP students had a Pamper Evening and a PS4 evening with the new games and controllers. The students and staff have all had a great time in REP this term and are looking forward to getting out and about in the Summer Term.

Lonsdale House Results—Spring Term 2019

<u>Event Points Spring 2019</u>	<u>Achievement Points Spring 2019</u>	<u>Total Points to Date</u>
Yellow 275	Green 253	Red 619
Blue 300	Yellow 321	Yellow 621
Red 300	Blue 342	Blue 642
Green 425	Red 344	Green 678