

## Learning for Life!



Headteacher: **Mrs Claudia Thiele** BEd Hons NPQSL, NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of this term, we wanted to look back at some of the exciting and important things that happened over the past month at Lonsdale.

When we returned from the Easter break, a group of six pupils were invited to play table-top cricket at the Lord's Taverners Quarterfinals in Newmarket. Our pupils did us proud and came fourth in this competition.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, the whole school got out their gloves, pots and compost and joined in the 'Planting Day' to spruce up our courtyards and outdoor areas. We were supported by a number of Tesco volunteers and would also like to thank you for donating pots, seeds, plants and compost.

Tony Fitzpatrick, the Hertfordshire Director of Education, visited our school on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, too. He was keen to find out what Lonsdale School offers to its pupils and how they are supported whilst at school. He commented on the resilience and enthusiasm of our learners, and the great relationships between pupils and pupils and staff.

Sports Week brought a variety of sports coaches to Lonsdale School, who enabled our pupils to explore and take part in archery, Drumba, tennis, yoga, golf, cricket, Boxercise, biking and fitness throughout the week. Many secondary pupils had the opportunity to go sailing at Stanborough Lakes.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, the whole school was joined by parents and volunteers to take part in a sponsored walk to help raise money for the Alfie Jones Foundation, the school's chosen charity this school year. Thank you so much for supporting us!

It was fantastic to see so many of you joining us for our annual Sports Day races on Friday 16<sup>th</sup>. We were impressed with the skills and competitive spirit of our parents supporting pupils to transport beanbags and wet sponges around obstacles. The Green House were the worthy winners on the day!

A group of upper-school pupils had the opportunity to engage in a further session with 'Voices of Hertfordshire' in May. This is a county-wide initiative to work with pupils to capture their voice about services and opportunities for young people with SEND in Hertfordshire. All work, research, comments and feedback from these young people feeds directly into the SEND partnership for Hertfordshire to support improvement work. 'Voices of Hertfordshire' is coordinated by Sarah Stevens who is the participation lead for Hertfordshire.

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And last but not least, our older pupils have started their exam period at the end of April. We are proud of how much effort they have been putting into their studies and revision, and the determination with which they are going into their exams.

Looking back, it is unbelievable how many things were fitted into one half term of only four and a half weeks in length! We would also like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support in our school events, fundraisers and development work. Your generosity and commitment to our school community make a significant difference, especially as we work together to overcome challenges. Thank you for being such an integral part of our school!

We look forward to an exciting half term ahead, and we wish all our families a restful and relaxing break!

Warm regards,

Claudia Thiele

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