

WINTER 2016

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of the year is always a time to stop and reflect.

Personally, this year more than ever, I will be doing just that. Many of you will be aware that my father passed away a few weeks ago. While my family are all obviously grieving, one feeling more than any has helped me to get through the last few difficult weeks. That is the feeling of pride.

My Dad started out on the local paper in Darlington at the age of sixteen. Yet, he carved a life for himself that saw him become one of the country's leading football reporters. He became genuine friends with the likes of Sir Alex Ferguson, travelled the world, broke some huge sporting stories and, from

the letters I have received, appears to have inspired many young and up-and-coming journalists. The fact that the news of his death was announced by Gary Lineker on Twitter, to the point where it was trending nationally, goes some way to show how far a boy from the North East had come.

You may ask why am I telling you this? Partly it is because of the pride I have in all that Dad achieved. I also hope, however, that this goes some way to show people that you can achieve anything you want if you just have the desire and aspiration to go for it.

So, during the noise and hustle and bustle of the Christmas period, just stop and think not just about what you

have achieved over the last year – but also set your goals for what you want to achieve in the future.

More than ever I realise that we have a complete hand in writing our own headlines in life. So embrace everything that comes your way and set your goals high; there is a world of opportunity out there.

Thank you for all your kind words over the last few weeks, and I hope you all have a very enjoyable Christmas.

Warm regards,



Alison Hayes
Principal

OLYMPIC STAR INSPIRES STUDENTS TO 'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'

Our Year 7 students recently had the chance to meet Olympic Badminton Player, Gail Emms, as part of the launch of 'Be the Best You Can Be' at the academy.

Students heard about Gail's life as an elite athlete and the importance of being the best you can be and never giving up on your dreams.

She said: "When I first started playing badminton it wasn't easy, but if you keep trying, practice and have a role model that you can aspire to, you can achieve anything."

"You just need someone to say have another go, keep trying and

you'll get there. Whatever you decide to do, if you can look back and say you're proud of what you achieved then that really is an incredible feeling."

The students will now take part in a year-long programme of activities to boost confidence and unlock potential, encouraging them to give their all and believe in themselves wherever their talents lie.

Anne Franklin, Assistant Principal, said: "The students were so inspired by what they heard and I look forward to seeing them grow in confidence throughout the programme."



CHILDREN IN NEED

Lodge Park's student council did an incredible job organising the academy's fundraising activities for this year's Children in Need.

From a non-uniform day to a sponsored silence, students across the academy did their bit to raise £839.82 for the important cause.

Stuart Judge, Vice Principal, said: "It was fantastic to see our student council coming together to organise activities for Children in Need.

"They had lots of ideas to engage students across all year groups and it was brilliant to see all of the students and staff get involved."



OFSTED

As you know, Ofsted recently visited the academy.

We are currently waiting for a copy of the final report, and will share that with you as soon as it is available.

We would like to thank you for sharing your feedback on parent view as part of the process.

YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

Year 8 students from Lodge Park Academy are now published authors, thanks to a project run by Scholastic.

"We are Writers" offers a unique opportunity for students to see their writing published in a real book, so, as part of their English lessons, every student was set the challenge of using their creative writing skills to invent imaginative short stories.

Leanda Green, Key Stage 3 English Coordinator, said: "Each student was given an opening sentence to begin their own stories, and from there they created masterpieces.

"The students loved taking part in this project and put in so much effort to produce their own unique stories.

"Everyone is so proud of what has been achieved and it is fantastic to see the work in print."

MICROSOFT HOSTS LODGE PARK STUDENTS

As part of our ongoing partnership with Microsoft UK, a group of Year 8 students have taken part in the annual DigiGirlz project.

Working with other girls from across the country, students had the chance to take part in a series of challenges to test their knowledge of technology, gain hands-on experience and find out more about careers in the sector.

Ms Barson, Teacher of Computer Science, said: "The day is always action-packed and it was an ideal opportunity for students to find out more about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and the academic pathways that might lead to them."

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Lodge Park's CCF Unit led this year's Remembrance Day commemorations, as students and staff stopped to reflect on the sacrifices that men and women have made for our country.

This included a service of remembrance, a guard of honour and the laying of wreaths in memory of the fallen.

Sarah Gunenc, a Year 10 student, also read her poem 'Crimson', which was selected as the Key Stage 4 winner of the DRET Remembrance Day Poetry Competition.

Mrs Fleming, sister of Craftsman Alex Shaw who lost his life during the Falklands Conflict, presented Sarah with her award. Alex was a student at Lodge Park. We also particularly remembered another former student, Lance Corporal, James Ashworth.



STUDENTS JOIN THE BURNET NEWS CLUB

Budding journalists from Lodge Park Academy have been debating current affairs issues as part of a brand new news club for Key Stage 3 students.

The club, which is part of a national scheme led by the Economist Educational Foundation, takes place during weekly enrichment and provides the opportunity for students to discuss and debate key issues.

Students are encouraged to develop their curiosity, skepticism, logic, storytelling and negotiation skills as well as building confidence in public speaking.

Ms Corner, Librarian, who runs the club, said: "The club is designed to enthuse students into discussing current affairs, to give them an informed view of the world and encourage them to have their say.

"I've been so impressed with how the students have approached the discussions, with so many well-thought out responses to some challenging topics."



A CANADIAN ADVENTURE

During the summer break, four of our Year 13 students were lucky enough to join others from across the David Ross Education Trust for a once in a lifetime trip to Canada.

Thanks to the support of the Stuart Horne Bursary, each student had the chance to take part in a three week Outward Bound trip in the Canadian wilderness.

Beatriz Ribiero, who went on a canoeing expedition in Northern Ontario, said: "The trip was really hard work but absolutely incredible. We were literally taught the basics for survival, how to build a shelter, start a fire and cook in the wilderness.

"I learnt so much about different people and it really built my resilience."



SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

After weeks of rehearsals, eleven of our students took to the stage at the Corby Cube to perform their interpretation of 'Macbeth' as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

From the lighting and sound to the creative direction, students were able to find out more about the work that is involved in a professional production.

Andrea Mackay, Teacher of English, commented: "This was an incredible opportunity for our students to be involved in every part of a production.

"We decided to perform Shakespeare's classic with a modern twist and the students did a fantastic job. They are already talking about what to perform next year."

A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Students and staff at Lodge Park Academy celebrated their annual prizegiving event at the Corby Cube this term.

The evening, which was hosted by former England Rugby Union star, Leon Lloyd, celebrated the outstanding achievements of students from across the academy.

As well as recognising exceptional exam performance, the event was the perfect opportunity to celebrate achievement across sport, the arts, and other areas of academy life.

Leon Lloyd said: "I was very impressed by the event and how well mannered the students were. It was a pleasure to be part of it."

DRET SPORT BURSARY

Five students have been awarded a DRET Sport Bursary this term.

David Gillespie, Ashleigh Maynard, Bobbi Pinkerton, Sam Smith and Teagan Collins have all received support to pursue their sporting talents.

Bobbi, who has just won a Silver Medal in the Leicestershire County Trampoline Competition will use her funding to attend

a training camp, while other students will access additional coaching, competitions and equipment as part of the bursary.

Shane Ward, DRET Sports Enrichment Manager, said: "As a Trust, we want to support our students to achieve sporting excellence. The DRET Sport Bursary is just a small part of that, and we look forward to hearing about how these talented students progress."



LODGE PARK IS NAMED CORBY SPORTS SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



Lodge Park Academy has been named 'Corby Sports School of the Year' for the third year running.

The academy has had an excellent sporting year, finishing 2nd and 3rd at DRET's Summer and Winter Cup as well as winning a number of accolades at local and county level.

We are also delighted to announce that Kai Campbell has been chosen as 'Young Leader of the Year' for his commitment and dedication to sport.

Alice Smyth, Director of Sport, said: "As an academy, we are proud to offer a diverse range of sporting opportunities for our students and I'm thrilled that we have once again been recognised as Corby Sports School of the Year.

"Kai's award was also thoroughly deserved, and I hope it encourages even more of our students to become Young Leaders."

KICKBOXING STAR COMPETES IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



A talented kickboxer has been competing on the world stage as part of the British Chinese Kickboxing Association's England squad.

James English, a Year 7 student, who started kickboxing when he was five years old, has now competed in the WKC European Championships, Irish Open and attended the World Championships in Albufiera in October.

Alice Smyth, Director of Sport, said: "It is fantastic to hear that James has been doing so well throughout his international competitions. I'm sure there will be lots more success for him in the future."

LODGE PARK TAKE THIRD PLACE AT THE DRET WINTER CUP

After a tense competition, Lodge Park Academy took third place at this year's DRET Winter Cup.

The event, held at the University of Nottingham, brought together the most talented netball and football players from across the Trust's ten secondary academies.

The students were amongst the first to compete at the new David Ross Sports

Village - a sports centre based on the University campus that is supported by the Trust's sponsor.

Shane Ward, DRET Sports Enrichment Manager, said: "The sporting talent across our secondaries is phenomenal and our students continue to impress.

"Everyone represented their academy with pride and put an incredible amount of effort in to support one another."



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