

NEWS

Longridge
Towers School



Rising Stars

For a school of our size there was an immense amount of drama this term and all of the pupils involved have much to be proud of.

After months of rehearsals, The Junior Department's production of 'Joseph and The Technicolor Dreamcoat' was a whirlwind of catchy songs which was interspersed with fantastic acting from all the pupils. They received standing ovations at the end of every performance which were well deserved.

The Senior School presented the classic fable of Broadway's, 'Guys and Dolls' at The Maltings.



The students set the pace for the fast moving production which engaged the audience in an all round thrilling experience. The 1950s jazz and swing style provided catchy, upbeat songs with outstanding

performances from an enthusiastic group of talented actors and actresses.

We are all looking forward to the next productions!

Veni, Vidi, Vici



Not quite the marauding barbarians from the North, but they descended upon Eboracum (York) with enthusiasm and excitement ready to learn about the Legionary lifestyle and find out a little more about their topic of Roman Britain.

Having disgorged from the train they set off (at not quite a Legion's marching pace) towards the museum, stopping on the way to admire...the daffodils... but also the city walls with a detour down to the riverside. Onwards they marched into the museum gardens where they stopped to admire... the squirrels... but also a rather impressive upstanding section of Roman wall complete with corner tower, taking careful note of the red bonding tiles, a signature of many Roman buildings.

Once they had deposited their bags, coats and lunches and made the mandatory visit to the toilets, on the way stopping to admire...the red fluffy handrail... as well as the Roman mosaics, they ventured into the Roman gallery to become 'archaeologists' looking for evidence to help answer a series of questions. This involved 'meeting' a series of holographic inhabitants from Eboracum and listening to their stories.

With lunch out of the way they then took part in a hands-on workshop based on the life of Lucius Duccius Rufinius, a Standard Bearer for the Ninth Legion Hispania who was the founding Legion of the military fortress. The children were able to examine and handle genuine Roman objects whilst learning more about recruitment, conditions, work, leisure and life of a Legionary. Some of the artefacts studied included: a small pan used for cooking in and eating from by the soldiers, a toilet set including ear wax scoops, a spear head and ballista ball.

Following on from this, the children were then split into small groups to rotate around six activities which included clay work, using dinarii to buy and trade items and using their maths skills to work out the number of men in a Legion. Probably the most anticipated activity was the opportunity to dress as a Legionary soldier

in replica kit with the added challenge of delving into the darkest recesses of their memories to remember the Latin name for each piece.

Once draped in tunic, armour, helmet and sandals, with sword, dagger and shield the children could truly appreciate how difficult it must have been to march twenty miles a day in full kit (and there were certainly no complaints about carrying their own bag-pack the quarter mile back to the station!) After a spell of marching and formation drills outside in the museum grounds using replica wooden training swords and shields, only being slightly distracted by the pigeons, it was time to explore the delights of the museum shop ('You don't have to spend all your money') before marching back to the railway station - impressively chanting 'Sin, Dex' as they went.



Hockey



U12 Hockey

The U12 hockey team competed together for the first time this season at the Northumberland County Hockey Festival. After a shaky start, the team bonded well and were placed 3rd overall out of 8 teams.

U13 Hockey

The U13 hockey team has had a variety of league matches and friendly matches this half of the season with a mix of wins, losses and draws.

Results:

LTS v Emmanuel College	(F) 3-0 win
LTS v Eyemouth	(F) 3-1 win
LTS v Dame Allan's	(L) 2-1 loss
LTS v Central High	(L) 9-0 loss
LTS v John Spence	(L) 1-1 draw
LTS v Berwickshire High	(F) 4-2 loss

The U13 team also competed in two tournaments, the National Schools coming 4th and the Northumberland County Tournament reaching the semi-finals.



U14 Team

The U14 team have had two matches this term against Berwick Academy and KEVI and have won both! There was some super hockey on display in both matches and this looks very promising moving towards next year's U15 league matches.



U15 Team

The U15 team have had a strong season. In the league, they have achieved 6 wins, 1 draw and 2 defeats. They have also played friendly matches against KEVI, North Berwick, Eyemouth and Berwickshire High and have come out victorious in all. Between them, the U15 squad have scored an impressive 39 goals in league matches alone – add this to friendly games and they have scored 63!!! In the County Tournament, the U15 girls made it through to the semi-finals where, despite a close score line, they were put out by a strong Dame Allan's side. 6 of the U15 squad also participated in the National Schools Semi-Finals as part of the U16 squad.

U16 Hockey

The U16 team won the Northumberland National Schools Hockey Competition and they went on to represent Northumberland at the Regional Championships at Pocklington, where they came 5th. They remain undefeated in any Northumberland matches played this year and won the Berwick Junior Team of the Season at the recent Berwick Sports Awards.



U18 Hockey

The U18 team have had another great season. We are a young squad with only three U6 members, so it has been a steep learning curve for our U16 players. The team has only lost one match in the Northumberland League and did not concede any goals at the recent Northumberland County Tournament. I would like to thank all the girls for their hard work; they have been a pleasure to work with this year.

North East Teenage Book Awards

This year, pupils from Form 3 participated in the prestigious North East Teenage Book Awards (NETBA) ceremony in February at the Centre for Life in Newcastle.

Celebrating its 15th anniversary NETBA were pleased to announce Emma Pass, the author of *Acid* as the overall winner for 2014, with a special highly commended prize presented to Kerry Drewery for *A Dream of Lights*.

Since September 2013, Form 3 have been shadowing the awards and have read, reviewed and voted for their favourite book from a shortlist of six outstanding novels, including *The Savages* by Matt Whyman, *Pantomime* by Laura Lim, *The Quietness* by Alison Rattle and Paula Rawsthorne's *Blood Tracks*. We have been transported to the Victorian slums of nineteenth-century London, met a family of cannibals, been interned in a prison camp in North Korea, joined the circus and fled from ACID agents after being imprisoned for murder!

The ceremony was hosted by professional storyteller Alec Williams and each author was introduced by attending students.



Siobhan Bankier and Bethany Thomas were chosen to introduce Alison Rattle, one of our favourite authors, and gave a confident review of *The Quietness*.

Students were presented with a book token on the night as a thank-you for their participation in the award and were able to talk to their favourite authors after the event.

Art students visit Edinburgh

The Form 4 saw Paolozzi's giant Vulcan sculpture and a recreation of his studio in Modern One, Louise Bourjois' thought provoking work in Modern Two then Rodin's *Kiss* and Turner's watercolours in the National Gallery. Before the trip students had made their own sketchbooks and they spent the day filling them with drawings and observations. The group ended the day with a visit to Harvey Nichols. We saw art in action and how it can be used in commercial design and manufacturing.



The Form 5 GCSE art pupils enjoyed a whistle stop tour of Edinburgh. They visited a graffiti wall near Waverley station, the Botanic Gardens, Modern One Gallery, Dovecot Studios and the Chambers Street Museum. Two of their exam questions are about 'gardens' and 'disguise' so it was a great opportunity for them to gather material for their sketchbooks.

Pupils from the L6 went with Mrs McCorquodale, an ex student, to Edinburgh College of Art. They joined a student led tour and enjoyed an inside view of life at Art College. They were able to ask students in illustration, painting, textiles, sculpture, jewellery and graphics about their individual work. They then visited Modern One and Two galleries and feasted their eyes on Edinburgh's architectural features in preparation for their Unit 2.



Art



Anna Smith



Form 3 Artist Portraits



Solomon Leong



Form 1



Jack Laing



Faye Weddle



Jasmine Gibson



Rachel Entwistle



Sarah Rhodes



Anna Grundy



Molly Luke



Adam Fawcus

Science



The Great Egg Race

Form 3 have been learning about the importance of crumple zones and airbags by transporting an egg, at speed, across the classroom as well as dropping it from the second floor.

Many novel design solutions were on show and apart from two minor accidents (fatalities) eggs remained in sound condition. There was excellent lateral thinking and never seen before designs propelled eggs across the classroom at great speed.



Junior Science

This picture shows another exciting Year 5 Science lesson in the Junior lab where the children were investigating 'changing state and reversible and irreversible changes.' Before the main lesson began, Mr Moscrop demonstrated the safe use of a Bunsen burner and how the amount of oxygen released affects the size and colour of the flame.

Form 2 Science – Getting all Mixed Up!!



Following on from studying some of the elements of the periodic table Form 2 tackle the tricky problem of separating several different materials.

Marbles and lentils from sand are quite straightforward, but when it comes to sorting the sugar from the sand then careful planning is required, as well as several pieces of specialist equipment. I suspect the next class to use the sand will find it a little sweeter!!



Local History brought to life

Year 6 pupils have been studying local history this term with a particular emphasis on the Battle of Flodden. We have been very fortunate to be able to work alongside Jane Miller who is the Education Officer for Flodden 1513 Ecomuseum, Megan Pearson who is the Flodden 1513 Education Assistant and Dr. Chris Burgess – the Flodden 1513 Archaeology Manager.



Our workshops began by making a 'human timeline' to identify the historical period when the battle took place and to identify who was on the English and Scottish thrones at the time. The children then learned about events leading up to the battle which influenced war and peace between the two nations. The children had a great time manoeuvring the two armies around a historical map as the story of the build up to the battle was relayed and they gained an in depth knowledge and understanding of how the battle progressed.



Workshop 2 was fascinating as the children got out their magnifying glasses and examined the Alnwick Muster Roll - looking at documentary evidence. They identified a number of characters who were called to battle by the Earl of Northumberland and from the evidence they collected from the Muster Roll, were set the challenge of dressing the character they

had researched, carefully choosing period costumes and artefacts befitting of their station from a huge selection provided. Many of the children got to experience the weight and discomfort of chain mail armour and helmets.

During the same week, the children were visited at school by Rusty Bodkins – a Medieval Archer! Equipped with Bill Hooks, Pikes and Bows and arrows, Rusty gave the children a fascinating insight into the more grizzly and gruesome side of battle leaving them in no doubt that they were glad to live in modern times and not the 16th Century.

Week 3 and we were off out of school on a site visit with Dr Burgess to Norham Castle which played an key role in the build up to the battle. The children were fascinated to learn about life at the castle (especially the bits about health and hygiene), see first hand archaeological evidence and observe the fortified Ladykirk church from the hillside just outside Norham. Back in class they compared modern day photographs and aerial shots with drawings and sketches of the castle as it would once have stood in all its glory.

Back in school the children then completed a workshop entitled 'Dig!' looking at archaeological evidence.

This exciting session was spent excavating skeletons and using the objects found on or around them to hypothesise and draw conclusions. Around the bodies the children unearthed canon balls, jewellery, arrow heads coins and pottery and were able to work out the sex of their skeleton, whether they were English or Scottish, rich or poor and whether or not they had died in battle! Incredible young archaeologists!



The culmination of our investigations and fact finding was a full day excursion to Etal Castle, Heatherslaw Mill and Flodden Field. The children participated in a series of enquiry based, cross-curricular learning activities designed to encourage them to learn about the Battle of Flodden in the wider context of politics, technology and life in the 16th Century.

At Etal Castle the children were challenged to use evidence from the historic built environment to plan their attack on Etal Castle or devise defensive strategies. At Heatherslaw Mill, pupils met the miller dressed in full 16th Century costume and learned about food and farming and how the armies were catered for. They learned about the soldiers' leisure time and made a popular game of the time called Three Men's Morris.

Finally, the children found themselves at Flodden Field itself where they could study the battleground terrain at first hand and draw together all that they had learned over the past weeks.

The whole experience of working with Jane, Megan and Chris was incredible and we cannot thank them enough for their work with our pupils.



Rugby

Senior Rugby

With such a small squad, the mighty Longridge did well to sustain two terms of rugby. As always, the players performed above expectations and many fine performances were achieved. It is hard to summarise a long season in a few lines and weekly summary's are available in the Newsletters.

The highlight for me was the superb achievement of winning the County Senior Plate Final. Well done to Struan Hutchison for leading the team so well.



U15 Rugby

The U15 team enjoyed their season and have improved significantly over the course of the year. Despite some tough games early in the term, the boys worked hard to improve their performance levels and produced some excellent results towards the end of the season. As always, our positive running game is well suited to the 7-a-side format and the boys worked hard in the lead up to the NSB and County tournaments. The highlight at the NSB tournament was beating the hosts in our opening pool game, but unfortunately despite some pleasing results the boys narrowly missed out on qualifying for the plate final by points difference.

With two weeks to improve our structure and organisation prior to the County 7's the boys displayed great determination and significantly improved their fitness levels. This allowed them to play a high-paced style of rugby. Despite being in a tough group, the boys convincingly beat Gosforth, put up a good display against RGS and should have beaten KEVI but for a last minute equalising score from them. With only the best runner up progressing from 3 groups we again missed out on a semi-final spot due to an inferior points difference. However, finishing runner up in such a strong group was an excellent achievement and the boys should be very proud of their efforts.

U13 Rugby

Despite many injuries throughout the year the U13 boys enjoyed the experience of playing against some very big schools. Oliver Flannigan the captain broke his arm and Dougie McNeill and Charlie Renner stepped in to lead the boys extremely effectively. What came across this year were the areas of grand improvements of some of the squad. Charlie Renner and Daniel Caddick both improved their game enormously with Messrs Nesbitt and Flannigan giving of their best throughout the season. The games they played were tough physical matches and the team stuck to the task. However, when our backs got the ball their passing skills were impressive. The highlight of their year was the NSB Sevens on a gloriously sunny March afternoon when they reached the plate final only to be beaten by Austin Friars School by a couple of points. The aim of U13 rugby is to allow the boys to enjoy the experience and learn the basic skills of the game. The team achieved their aim and the whole squad had a positive time throughout. With such skills they can go on and develop their rugby throughout the school.



Music



It's been another busy term in the Music Department. Two fantastic productions took place – 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' with the Juniors and 'Guys and Dolls' with the Seniors. Amazing acting and super singing, so well done to everyone involved in those events, both front and back of stage (a personal thank you to the scene changers in 'Guys and Dolls' – Mrs Cheer didn't have to play too much cover music!). Informal Concerts at lunchtime gave other musicians a chance to shine and the quality of these never fails to amaze all the staff.

It has been equally busy in the classroom. J4 have been exploring pentatonic music and J6 have been investigating how music is used in communication.

Forms 1 – 3 have been doing lots of practical music making using keyboards, guitars, drum kit and, of course, singing. Form 3 produced some very memorable rock performances of 'Sweet Child O' Mine' (eat your hearts out, Guns N' Roses).

J5 have been involved in a particularly exciting project based on protest songs. They listened to three examples: 'Blowin' in the Wind' by Bob Dylan, 'War' by Edwin Starr and 'Do they know it's Christmas?' by Banaid. Lyrics were discussed and special attention given to the use of language and imagery to get messages across. J5 then worked in small groups to produce their own powerful protest lyrics, with two of the groups choosing bullying and two choosing environmental issues. Mrs Cheer was extremely impressed with the quality of lyrics developed.



Bullying

Bullying isn't good because it causes a tidal wave of tears.
It drowns its victims like a vortex of tears;
The pressure, the pressure will crush me.
You and I won't be denied
until it stops for good.
Let's stop.
You push me back, I push you
back harder, harder
And why won't it stop, just stop and stop.

**Lucy Harris, Martin Vernon
and Alexander Williams**

Bullying

Dinee not bully 'cos it ain't not cully,
An' if it ain't not cully, dinee not bully.
Bullying is like a never ending
virus in your body,
It spreads to the world, to create
a plague of hatred.
Children being injected with
the venom of bullying,
Adults moving away, because of the
spreading disease of darkness,
Bullying isn't cool, yo!

**William Dakers, Charlie Brewis
and Joshua Forrest**

Killing Wolves

Wolves, wolves, we need them
a lot so stop killing them;
We've driven them away to a
habitat they can't live in;
Wolves, wolves, we need them
a lot so stop killing them;
Killed for medicine for us but
does it cure the wolf?
Killed for clothes for us but
leaves the wolf naked;
We've driven them away to a
habitat they can't live in;
Wolves, wolves, we need them
a lot so stop killing them.

**Amandine Cooper, Oliver Miller
and Archie Pilcher**

Extinction of the Red Squirrel

Driving squirrels out of their home
like refugees – please stop!
It is an infection which grows
and grows – please stop!
This isn't a fair game, they only have one life,
Then it's game over – please stop!
Don't let this virus spread – please stop!
Breaking hearts of children's
souls – please stop!
It's a big wave washing them
away – please stop!
It is amazing how quickly, they go
almost like the wind – please stop!
Respect the squirrels – please stop!
How would you like it?

**Sophy Brigham, William Lindsay
and Beth Martinez**

Boarding

This term the boarding house welcomed a visiting group of Chinese students from the city of Dalian. Whilst they were here they visited several local schools, the Honey Farm, shopping at the Metrocentre and accompanied us to Newcastle's Chinatown for a Chinese meal to celebrate the Chinese New Year.



We have had many achievements in the Boarding House this term with Yamikani Ali qualifying for the County Hockey team, Yelita Ali starring in one of the lead roles in Guys and Dolls, her character was 'Nicely Nicely' and she was also part of the chorus in The Maltings Youth theatre's production of 'Phantom of the Opera'. Well done to our head boarding prefect, Kelsey Brodie, on passing her driving test at the first attempt.

This term's activities programme was both varied and exciting, with first time visits to the historic Museum of Scotland, and the eerily atmospheric Mary Kings Close and also the wonderful Edinburgh Zoo where the boarders had their very own private viewing of the world famous giant pandas, Tian Tian and Yang Guang. They also enjoyed ice skating, ten pin bowling, Metrocentre shopping, and the cinema to see the latest films released. Good luck to all our Form 5 and 6 students with their exams in the summer term.

Badminton

After last year's bronze medal in the North Northumberland round of the Center Parcs National Schools Championship, the seed was set for greater achievement in 2014. Calum Paterson was the only Key Stage 4 player still eligible from 2013 and joining him this year were Jack Laing, Jordan Brunning and Leo Lui. After the initial shock of facing the best team in the first match LTS put in some solid performances, but too many shots hit into the net meant that they just missed a creditable bronze by a few points.

The Key Stage 3 team also had one player from 2013, Adam Fawcus. He was joined this year by Andrew Hogg, Ben Simpson, David Thomas and Konrad Cooper. The team combined well with the stronger players coaching the rookies through the critical doubles games and there was a special performance by Adam Fawcus in the final, when he won a close singles game to set up the team for the gold medal. The team finished the day as champions and progressed to the county round a couple of weeks later.

In the county round, Andrew Hogg was a pleasure to watch at No1 singles as he crafted his rallies with some skilfully placed shots and

effortless movement about the court, in effect demoralising the opponents at the start. Adam Fawcus followed this up with a business like win at No2 singles, leaving LTS requiring only 1 of the 3 doubles games for victory. David and Konrad, both improving tactically with every game they played, came close to stealing some impressive victories, but just lost out a couple of times with some wayward serving at the death of the game, a point to work on in future. The final 2 doubles pairings remained undefeated all day to secure another team gold medal and establish the Longridge Towers School badminton team as County Champions for the first time. This enabled them to represent the county in the penultimate round of the championships at the purpose built Newcastle Badminton Centre, where the team was up



against some serious talented performance centre players. Longridge finished 4th but a big mention must be made of Andrew Hogg who played against the best in the region and returned undefeated as No 1 singles player.

Most of the Key Stage 3 team are still eligible for the same age competition next year, so hopes are high of a repeat performance in 2015. Training will begin again in September enrichment for those looking for a place on a winning team. To build on the success, it was noted that girls who attended the first badminton enrichment in September were stronger than some of the other girls teams at the local event and it is hoped to get a girls team entered in 2015. Badminton has been included in junior enrichment this March to give the younger players a good foundation for future glory!

Careers

High Teas

All pupils in Form 5 and L6 had an opportunity to find out more about their chosen careers in the two "high teas" events held recently. This is a natural progression for them as the L6 have been researching possible courses while Form 5 have done psychometric testing with Futurewise including individual interviews with an ISCO adviser.

At the high teas the pupils were able to talk to professionals and current students, many of whom were former pupils of the school. There were a wide range of careers featured including agriculture, architecture, art, business, engineering, land management, medicine, midwifery, nursing, psychology, sport and teaching. The feedback from both the visitors and the pupils was excellent and the pupils felt that it had been really worthwhile. The visitors thoroughly enjoyed talking to the pupils and were impressed with their attitude and knowledge of their chosen career. It was great to see former pupils



back again and hear about their success since leaving Longridge. Our thanks go to everyone who gave up their time to come along to these events, it is much appreciated.

Next term the L6 will attend the Higher Education Convention in Newcastle where they will be able to talk to representatives from UK wide universities and colleges, pick up new prospectuses and attend talks on student finance.

Forms 1-4

Careers education is part of the PSHE programme and all year groups have been involved in this area throughout the Lent

Term. Form 1 have been learning to identify their skills and qualities as well as learning how to research information and use the career library. They are busy doing projects on their "dream career" and they range from civil engineering to Egyptology!

Form 2 has been participating in 'The Real Game'. This is based on the world of work where pupils are given a job with a salary. They then have to find accommodation and transport and balance their budget. Later in the game some find they lose their job and what to do next becomes a vital topic. They certainly realise now that money does not grow on trees!

Form 3 has been preparing to make their GCSE choices and have been researching their ideas in preparation for this. They have checked out the fit of their subject choices with possible careers.

Form 4 pupils go on work experience in June and they have spent time writing letters, doing interview skills as well as arranging their placements. This has not always been easy as the rules and regulations make some career areas difficult for them to access.



Sixth Form

The Sixth Form are extremely busy at the moment as 'AS' and 'A' Level examinations are looming and revision preparations are well underway. It is at this time when thoughtful and reflective study needs to meet with a calm and structured lifestyle. Sure, there is a need to relax, recharge the batteries and let the physical organ "the brain" have chance to repair itself and rest as with any other part of the body that has undergone strenuous activity. There is also a need to keep that organ on the move, to keep it well oiled and not to allow it to contract and cease to operate efficiently. But it's not all hard work in the Sixth Form as the photo demonstrates!



English

Guys and Dolls

The 14th-15th March saw L T S (Longridge Theatre Society) take to the stage once again at The Maltings. This involved a cast and crew of over 50 students, working together to present the classic 'fable of Broadway', Guys and Dolls. The students pulled off a fantastic performance of what is a very challenging show. Both evening performances were well attended, and audience reactions very favourable; one very satisfied parent described 'having a grin from ear to ear from start to finish.' The students involved in the technical team were an integral part of the success of the show, honing their set-changing skills down to a matter of seconds in some cases. There is now much discussion about next year's show; suffice to say, we are looking ambitiously for a show with both punch and panache!



Form 3 English have been studying poetry of World War I, reading a range of poems written from different perspectives and with varying attitudes towards the conflict. Inspired by their studies, students have also been writing their own poems, a selection of which are printed below.

Haunted

Ten years ago, we lay there still,
Rifles poised to kill another.
Then the bells rang, they rang out strong,
His frightful eyes stared down on me.

His life had gone in just seconds,
But his scared face still glares at me.
Still every night it haunts my dreams,
It still haunts me, it always will.

Now ten years past, they lie there still.
Beneath the crosses, rows and rows.

by Matthew Sanderson (Form 3)

Men and Boys

The rain fell in bucket loads,
All around the thunder clapped,
People spying and sending codes,
Men being captured and trapped

All around the battle raged on,
Soldiers, boys all fought in this war,
The rain never stopped, even at dawn,
Dead men as the soft, bloody floor

The rain sloshed around their feet,
Soaking, ill the men slaughtered on,
Soldiers eaten for their meat,
Most men and boys, dead and gone.

by Isobel Miller (Form 3)

This poem is in reply to
Edward Thomas' poem Rain

This is the End

I'm back, at last,
but sadly with, my past.
I try to forget
and not to regret
what I've been through.

I can't get the thoughts, out of my head,
of my dear friend, lying there, dead.
I keep having flashbacks
of the loud gun cracks
and the amount of men that fell to the ground.

I'm home, but for some reason, I'm there,
I can't get my mind, out of despair.
I want to be there, but I'm glad to be home,
I always feel, this sense of alone.
But this is the end.

by Annabel Tyser (Form 3)

(I was inspired by Wilfred Gibson's 'Back')

Awake

Under his nightcap,
Up against his bed,
His mind a 'quaking-
-pounding in his head.

A memory of the past,
The guilt of survival,
How it happened so rapid;
The death of a rival.

How did it hurt him?
How could he mourn?
The death he witnessed,
Another soldier, exsanguinated, forlorn.

But this tragedy changed him,
Into a babe who would weep,
The gunshot that would echo,
A bloodied body in a heap,

It heaved for the last time,
Legs sprawled across the mud,
Red streams trickled out,
Its head soaked in blood,
But the survivor was the innocent,
As he did not kill the foe,
Yet he felt worse than ever,
Was it his time to go?

Why did they have to hate them?
A war isn't right,
That man didn't want to die,
So why did they have to fight?

by Bethany Thomas (Form 3)

BBC News School Report

On Thursday 26th March, Longridge students took part in the BBC School Report project. This activity gave students an insight into the workings of a newsroom, and involved students as reporters, camera operators, sub-editors and editors, under the guidance of Mr Brooke. Working to a tight deadline, the students produced a short feature on the upcoming independence referendum, which was filmed, edited and uploaded onto the BBC News website. The finished piece can be accessed from the school website, via the Senior School English Department area. Well done to all students involved; some seem to have been bitten by the journalism bug!

Life in Key Stage 1

Each school day for the children in KS1 is exciting, new and different. Both year groups learning is strongly based around a topic or theme such as food and farming, ourselves, rainforests and many more. From this the children's lessons are planned to be cross-curricular, creative, engaging and exhilarating. The KS1 children's ideas and thoughts for learning are always taken into consideration and are used to guide each lesson. Fun and excitement are key in motivating the children's learning and recently the children have been involved in smoothie making, creating a shop, turning their classroom into a rainforest and making fruit kebabs.



This term the children in years 1 and 2 have been on many exciting trips in order to enhance their learning experiences. Morrisons supermarket was one destination visited. This allowed the children to collect and pay for various fruits in order to create and run a fruit stall. Both year groups will soon be visiting Butterfly World to further their scientific knowledge on plants, animals and environments.

There have been many fantastic themed days this term such as celebrating Chinese New Year and World Book Day. On both occasions, the children took part in various activities related to the day and there were some amazing costumes when the children were 'dressed to impress' as their favourite book character.



Highlights of J3

J3 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in World Book Day and arrived at school in an array of different costumes, reflecting the variety of authors and books chosen by the children. Tom came as Horrid Henry, Hugo appeared as Tom from Beast Quest and Nate was transformed into Percy Jackson! Jacob became Charlie from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, accompanied by Olivia as a character from Rainbow Magic and Lucy as Goldilocks. A range of wonderful activities were laid on during a fun-packed day and a favourite was the quiz which took place around the school, matching titles of books to the participating teachers. A huge thank you to Mrs Gettins whose hard work made the whole day such a tremendous success.



J3 kicked off the annual Junior School class assemblies by producing an excellent "Pet Assembly." Written and performed by the children themselves and superbly narrated by Hugo, a variety of pets arrived in the atrium to take centre stage! Nate talked eloquently about his rescue rabbit, Houdini (a real escape artist who ventures into many of his neighbours gardens!) and Tom brought in four of his working dogs, talking about how they are trained for shooting. Lucy gave a wonderful talk on caring for her cats, Lola and Lexy, and Olivia spoke clearly about looking after goldfish. Finally Jacob carried in two of his more exotic pets - a pair of tortoises - and explained how they require special care and attention. All the children and pets performed brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed sharing their interest in animals.

Junior Sport





Early Years Foundation Stage



At the beginning of this term we continued with our topic of 'People Who Help Us'. We enjoyed a visit from the paramedics in January; the flashing blue lights and the siren from the ambulance caused great excitement around the school! We were also fortunate to have one of our parents come in and talk to us about being a doctor; we all enjoyed using the stethoscope and the reflex hammer! Recently, the EYFS 2 class visited RAF Boulmer to look at the Air Sea Rescue helicopters; this was following a request from one of the children but took some time to organise. This trip was enjoyed hugely by both the children and Mrs Bullen and Mrs Soutter!



Our topic moved on to looking at toys as a number of the children wanted to bring their toys in from home. We have studied toys from the past and compared them to toys of today. We have enjoyed having a toy chest which was on loan from Woodhorn Museum; this has allowed the children to experience, handle and visualise older toys. The children have also looked at toys from around the world as part of their studies.

In addition, we have celebrated the Chinese New Year with the Jerningham children; we learned about the story of the Great Animal Race, made Chinese lanterns,



decorated dragons and enjoyed Chinese food. We also enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day as our favourite story characters.

We are now looking forward to another action-packed term and to many hours spent in the beautiful school grounds – hopefully in the sunshine!



Meet the Governors

Whilst the management of the school on a day-to-day basis is in the hands of the Senior Management Team the ultimate responsibility for the running of the school lies with the Governors. All of the Governors sit on the main board which meets termly and in addition there are a number of Governors' committees which are responsible for oversight of areas such as Education, Finance, Risk and Estate Management. Most of these committees meet at least once a term and report back through the committee chair to the main board meeting. Governors are normally appointed for an initial term of three years and there are currently eleven of whom five are current parents. They all give their time and expertise voluntarily and because of the broad range of their professional backgrounds they are able to give invaluable help and guidance. The current governing body includes a solicitor, an accountant, a GP and a retired headmaster, as well as individuals with experience of higher education, banking, marketing, commerce, agriculture and nursery education.



John Smithson
Chairman of Governors



Christine Davies



Jill McGregor



John Robertson



Dr Emma Miller



Jim Hutchison



Jim Houston



Dr Chris Phillips



Joanne Coats



Adrian Bell



Alastair Birkett

Form 4 Geography Field Trip – Blencathra, Lake District

On arrival to our field centre high on the slopes of Blencathra, the group immediately had an Introduction to glaciation – this included a walk along a glacial valley observing glacial features such as a corrie, a pyramidal peak, a misfit stream and a hanging valley. Key skills were taught including reading a landscape and drawing field-sketches. We then did a settlement survey in the village of Threlkeld to investigate the effects of second home ownership and retirement properties.



On Thursday the group undertook a tourism and recreation study – This involved a climb up Catbells on the shores of Derwent Water. At a height of 451m Wainwright described Catbells as a family walk and it is one of the more popular walks in the Lake District. The geographers measured footpath erosion on Catbells slopes to investigate the impacts of tourism

on this. The data they collected was then used on their controlled assessments.

No geography field trip is complete without standing knee deep in a river. This took place in the Glenderaterra Beck, on the western slopes of Blencathra. A variety of river measurements were taken. Despite the blizzard that swept in, a good time was had by all.

Seniors and Juniors march off to Trimontium

On arrival, we met our volunteer guide, Mr Gordon at the Leaderfoot Viaduct and after admiring the stunning architecture of the former railway bridge, he informed us that we had now joined the Roman Army and were going on an historical march, one which would take us past the Roman fort of Trimontium itself. Armed with props which included, wooden training swords, shields, bed rolls and the legionary banner, we followed the quick march orders of Mr Gordon who soon had us all chanting, "Sin, dex!" as well as singing a rousing army song.

Although we could easily appreciate the weather related moans of the Romans who were actually stationed in Britain, we soon forgot about the nip in the air as Mr Gordon enthusiastically led us on our way, ensuring that we had plenty of opportunity to practise our Latin! We learned that the name "Trimontium" refers to the 'three mountains' which make up the Eildon Hills (even though we couldn't see them through the fog!) We also heard of the rigours of army life, as well as seeing for ourselves the archaeological evidence that shows the exact site of the fort.

After our energetic march, we were transported to the Trimontium museum in Melrose where we discovered even more information about life at the fort. It was indeed fascinating to see for ourselves the many artefacts which have been recovered over the years. It could be said that for many, the most amusing part of the visit was dressing up time, when our pupils were transformed into toga-wearing Roman citizens, slaves, hunters and even a senator! We thank Mr Gordon for giving up his time and teaching us so enthusiastically about Trimontium.



Two Latin firsts for LTS

This term there have been passes for Siobhan Bankier, Angel Fang and Nona Heywood in the Cambridge Latin Course Graded Test Book 2, and an entry into the Newcastle Latin Recitation competition at RGS by Carenza Norris.

Well done everyone.

Exchange visit to Wolfenbüttel, Germany

A party of students from Forms 2 to 5 visited our partner school in Wolfenbüttel as part of our exchange programme. The town of Wolfenbüttel is very beautiful with its narrow streets and Tudor style buildings. The school paired us with host families who proved to be excellent hosts. As well as taking us to their school our hosts also organised other activities such as bowling and a Christmas party.



The party also went to Autostadt where Volkswagen cars are produced, to Braunschweig (Brunswick) for shopping and the highlight was a trip to Berlin to see the remaining parts of the Berlin Wall, The Reichstag and The Brandenburg Gate. Everywhere we went we seemed to be able to see a Christmas Market.

All of the pupils that went on the trip really enjoyed themselves and were very grateful for the hospitality shown by their German hosts.

Extended Project Qualification – A Star Turn

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows Sixth Formers the opportunity to extend their studies beyond the scope of traditional A-level subjects by developing and researching ideas about a topic of personal interest. Their completed assignment will include an extended report, a public presentation and a suitable artefact, if appropriate. During the process they will develop skills that will make them stand out from their contemporaries and prepare them admirably for further education or their future career. Universities and employers particularly value the independent research skills that the EPQ encourages. It also has the value of half an A-level (up to 70 UCAS points).

This year's EPQ candidates Joel Raine and Molly Luke have recently given their presentations to an audience of fellow pupils, teachers, governors, parents and guests. Molly and Joel worked together on



a film-making venture. However, to satisfy the strict criteria for the projects, they had to have clearly distinctive roles in the process. Essentially, Joel was the director and Molly the producer, although Joel also wrote the script and Molly was extensively involved in make-up and costume. Both students spoke with great clarity to describe their fascinating projects in considerable depth and answered their questions with honesty and confidence.

Last year, in stark contrast to the arts based offering of Joel and Molly, Sarah Griffiths

and Jack Wight presented the findings of their scientific research – into the treatment of tuberculosis and of mastitis in cattle respectively. Their projects were of a very high standard, gaining them both an A* grade for their endeavours. Whilst we eagerly await the outcomes for Molly and Joel's work, we can look forward next year to hearing from Rachael Aitken, who is presently investigating health-related issues amongst teenagers. (For more detail, you will have to come to her presentation!)

Anyone in the current Fifth Form will be eligible to start an EPQ project this year. Some have already expressed an interest, but others are still welcome. The EPQ requires a good deal of hard work and dedicated independent study, but the rewards are huge for those who complete it successfully.

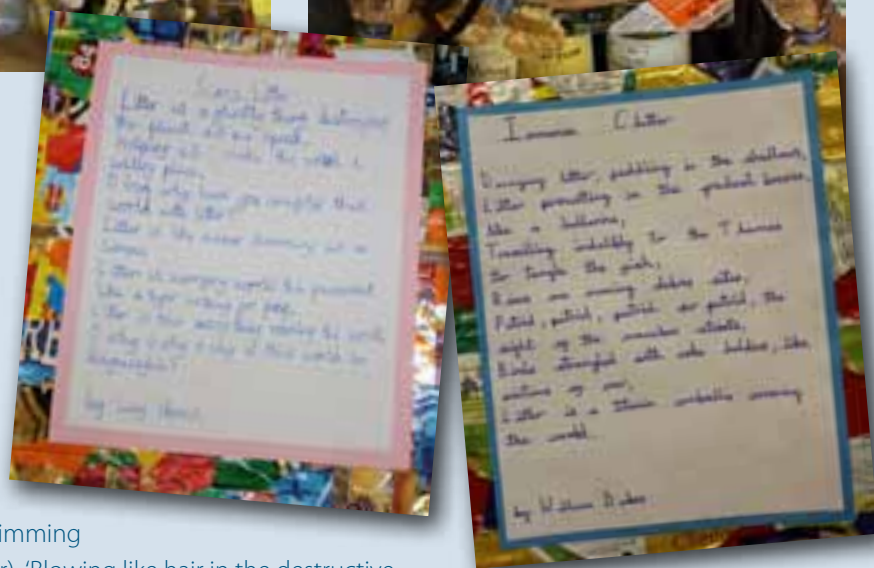
Mr Whitcombe

Environmental Issues – J5



This term, Year 5 has been working incredibly hard on their topic, 'Environmental Issues'. The topic has been linked to subjects across the curriculum, with the main emphasis being based around rubbish and recycling, and the impact it has on the local environment.

The theme of 'litter' was used as inspiration for a poetry project and the pupils produced a range of wonderfully imaginative work where they were challenged to use poetic devices such as personification, metaphors and similes. The children amazed us with their beautiful descriptions such as; 'Swimming rapturously on the diminutive pond.' (Amandine Cooper), 'Blowing like hair in the destructive storm.' (Martin Vernon). As part of their weekly Learning Log project, pupils were asked to collect and use recyclable materials to create their own robots. As shown in the pictures, children embraced this challenge wholeheartedly and used their inventive talents (with a little help from parents), to produce some truly wonderful creations.



Next term Year 5 will be visiting a local river for the day, to study the effects of erosion and to put into practice what they have learned in class. Be prepared with wellies and water proofs....you will be getting wet!

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Have a go at one of the questions from this year's Intermediate Maths Challenge!

In King Arthur's jousting tournament, each of the several competing knights receives 17 points for every bout he enters. The winner of each bout receives an extra 3 points. At the end of the tournament, the Black Knight has exactly one more point than the Red Knight.

What is the smallest number of bouts that the Black Knight could have entered?

A 3 B 4 C 5 D 6 E 7

Form 3 and 4 joined over 200 000 pupils from across the country to tackle the competition. The top 40 % receive awards of gold, silver or bronze certificates, the gold standard being awarded to the top 6 % only so congratulations to William and Leo on this achievement. The competition is designed to be challenging yet fun so well done to all participants.

This term has seen the regional heats of the Maths Team Challenge which saw a team from form's 2 and 3 compete against 24 teams from around Scotland. This is always a great day and Longridge achieved a very



respectable mid-table position against some much larger schools.

Also pictured are Sam and Aaron who qualified for the Senior Kangaroo challenge in December. To qualify alone puts them in the top 5 % in the country so a massive well done!



Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat

'Amazing!'

There was a point, in mid-October, once auditions had finished, roles cast and the first few rehearsals had taken place, when the 'directors' looked at each other and voiced the fear that perhaps in 'Joseph' we had bitten off more than they could chew... It was with some relief and a little trepidation that the decision was made to re-schedule the Stobo production of Joseph and The Technicolor Dreamcoat to the Lent term.

This production was unlike anything we had tackled before – a musical without any dialogue. There were tantrums, hissy fits, grumpiness and theatrical exits – and that was just from the directors. But they underestimated the enthusiasm and dedication of their young cast who threw themselves wholeheartedly into their roles – watching the stage production repeatedly on YouTube, buying the DVD, singing along to the CD and even going to a live theatre production of the show to perfect their performances.

The parents of the Junior Department's pupils had once again pulled out all the stops to produce the most amazing and creative costumes, and a huge thank you must go to them. One of the defining moments came when the children put on their costumes for the first time to perform and they were transformed. The addition of radio microphones was another boost to confidence. It was at this point that we all knew something rather special was going to take place.

The spontaneous standing ovation following the first night performance said it all... and this was repeated for subsequent performances. What a truly amazing show!

