



**LONGTON**  
HIGH SCHOOL & SPECIALIST ARTS COLLEGE

# news

issue **10**  
autumn 2008

## Happy birthday!

Longton is celebrating its first full year as a Specialist Arts College and the good news is that it is going from strength to strength.

The arts projects, shows and classes have continued throughout the year and have been added to with an extension of the school's community work and the opportunities for students within the school.

In this issue of the newsletter we have picked out a number of the success stories for special mention.

## Celebrating our success

With a 100% pass rate in Performing Arts Longton pupils have exceeded expectations.

Results from ICT and Art are still to be confirmed, but students are on course to meet or better expectations.

Other success stories are :-

- A number of initiatives have taken place suggested by staff and students. These included: 'Talk' day (a day in which lessons were delivered with an emphasis on communication), 'Talk cards' and a 'Polite' week where students and staff were able to collect tickets and win prizes for being polite.
- The delivery of dance lessons in all primary cluster schools over a period of six months, resulting in the Primary and Infant School Dance Festival at the end of April.
- '08 Dance Festival at the Regent Theatre which saw 20 of our Y7 and Y11 dancers performing for an large public audience. Students were complimented on their work and we have been invited to participate again next year.
- 'Journey' at the Victoria Hall where nine Y10 students and Miss Daniyova's dance groups performed.

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# Celebrating our success

## Continued from front page

- Axis project involving ten Y8 pupils in art work with the community. This work was displayed in the Victoria Hall and is now on display around the school.
- Miss Daniyova's Dance group performed at a number of venues and at a variety of festivals.
- The introduction of a Bhangra dance group at lunchtime which has run alongside our other dance classes.
- Participation in the 'Images of Christmas' Festival.
- Christmas ('I Have a Dream') and our fourth Summer Showcase and Art exhibition
- Participation in 'SHINE' week, a government initiative to

celebrate success and achievement. This began with the Summer Showcase and Art Exhibition which was followed by performance work in a Y7 sports event. Y9 took part in a three day project with Creative Partnerships based on the idea of survival and Y7 took a fun look at the world on confectionary. Y8 went to Carsington Water to explore wildlife photography and writing poetry.

- The 9 week Coalville arts programme attracted up to 15 young people on a Monday evening and was delivered by 3 members of Longton's staff. This was considered a success and we are looking to further the programme this term.
- Successful BTEC Project Performance took place at Berry Hill High School and Sports College.

# How do you survive a shipwreck ?

That was the question on the minds of Year 9 when they took part in an epic journey of self discovery and exploration and had to use all their wits and skills during the three day journey.

The 'marooned' were teamed up in threes and given numerous tasks to complete in order to win prizes totalling £255 in Potteries Centre vouchers and more importantly the accolade of 'Ultimate survivors'!

Tasks included building shelters, creating Totem Poles, designing and making headgear, fashioning clay pots, jewellery and weapons. They worked as a team in order to complete all tasks successfully.

As they worked on these tasks, the survivors filled in journals, sometimes as the character they were assigned. Other writing tasks included writing a message in a bottle, describing how they made their pots and utensils and creating a menu from the 'creatures' found on the island (involving some very unpleasant items including rats, ants and jelly-fish!).

A 'rip-roaring' (!) time was had by all - including the staff - and it was all made possible by input from Creative Partnerships practitioner, Jenny Woodhams, a plethora of staff from all curriculum areas, and an exceptional amount of effort from the English Department.

Who will get wrecked next year?





# Greenpower racing

The Longton Greenpower racing team got off to an excellent start to the season at Darley Moor in early summer.

Thirty cars from around the Midlands took part in a sprint event. They each competed in eight one lap races. The Longton team managed 1 x 1st place, 6 x 2nd places and 1 x 3rd places and qualified for the final.

In the final Longton finished 4th out of 8 cars, just missing third place.

During the evening the Longton team were asked to show off their car at a presentation evening at Staffordshire University. Three students put on a great presentation, including a DVD of the support given by Rolls Royce.

On 1st July the team travelled to Rockingham race track to compete in the Midland Regional qualifying race. 36 cars from all over the Midlands and as far a field as London took part in the 4 hour endurance race. Throughout the race the team were in the top 10 with only 1 lap between most cars.

At the end the Longton team were still going strong and finished a very credible 7th, with a total mileage of 97 miles.

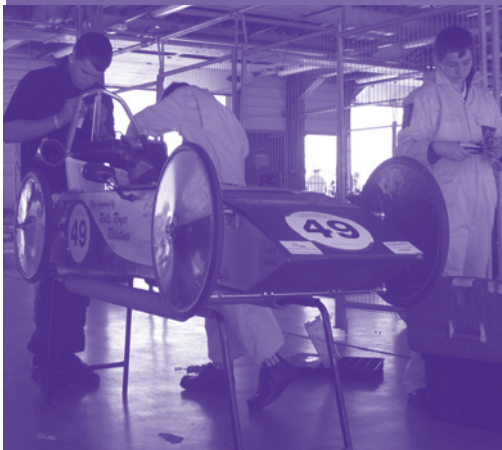
In April the team travelled all the way down to Goodwood for the weekend to take part in the first corporate challenge. This involved racing not only against the top 15 schools from the 2007-8 season, from around the UK but cars built by such companies as Bentley and even the car built by Blue Peter.

During the 4 hour race Longton managed to go as high as 8th, but during the last hour the car batteries faded away leading to a final position of 17th out of 36 cars.

Overall the team were very pleased with the performance of their Rolls Royce rebuilt car and were proud to beat cars such as Bentley and Blue Peter. If you watched the Blue Peter programme about the race you would have seen our car on TV (for a split second one might add).

The proud Longton team members are Mechanics Matthew Fox and Brandon Cole, Apprentice Mechanics Lauren Rhodes, Katie Hughes and Sam Johnson, and Drivers Brandon Cole, Cloe Allerton, Ashley Stubbs and Holly Ann.

Next outing for the Longton team is Aintree in September



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# Watch this space!

Longton High School is one of four schools within Stoke-on-Trent to currently have a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) running at school.

The VLE is a software system designed to support teaching and learning in an educational setting. It works over the Internet and provides a collection of tools including assessments, data management, homeworks, schemes of works and revision material.

There is also a facility for blogs and wikis, a school calendar and a noticeboard.

At the moment, the access is restricted to staff at Longton High School, but eventually, there will be access for both pupils and parents, wherever there is Internet availability.

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# Activities Day is success with students

A successful Arts activity day took place in the final week of term which saw students participating in a range of activities.

Year Seven took part in a pantomime workshop and then went to see 'Beauty and the Beast' at Crewe Lyceum. Year Eight went to Gladstone Pottery Museum for the day and took part in museum tours and arts activities. Year Nine made chocolates and sweets along with boxes and bags to put them in the morning and followed this in the afternoon with media activities in the CLC.

A group of Year Ten students went to the RAF whilst the remainder of Year Ten took part in media and arts activities. Year Eleven began work on the Year Book and Year DVD, made table decorations, took lessons in Ballroom and Latin dance in preparation for their Prom and took part in a full day Art workshop.

The day was a great success and most students enjoyed the activities.

## Charities

Longton students have raised over £800 for charities during the past year. A great effort!

During the last year the school has given to the following charities...

November 07

**Action Aid** .....£180.00  
**Royal British Legion** ...£30.00 + Sale of Poppies

December 07

**Hearing Dogs for the Deaf** .....£15.00  
**Guide Dogs for the Blind** .....£15.00  
**Animal Lifeline** .....£20.00  
**British Heart Foundation** .....£285.00  
**Children with Leukaemia** .....£16.00

March 08

**Sports Relief** .....£95.00

April 08

**WaterAid** .....£60.00

June 08

**Marie Curie Cancer Care** .....£50.00  
**Douglas McMillan Hospice** .....£114.00

