

# Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 19th November 2021

*Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today*



## All-through news

Last week was a really special one; metaphorically it felt like “spring” as suddenly after what has seemed like a long bleak winter, everything seemed to happen.

Firstly there was the Larch concert, with over 100 either singing or playing an instrument. It was lovely to see so many parents supporting their children and everyone commented on the fun which was had. Thursday was a really special day; two remembrance ceremonies outside, readings and music, including the sensitive playing of the “Last Post” by Jack, followed by the two minutes silence. Then after school, Big Band rehearsals, Karate, and Year 6 football and netball matches. The community was once again alive and buzzing, with everyone working together. This is what it should be and we look forward to exciting times ahead!

## T-Cup Launch

We were excited to launch our new and exciting T-Cup wellbeing app this week to students in Y5-13. Lee and Ed gave engaging and insightful presentations to the students about their experience in Business and sport whilst also getting students to reflect on their own wellbeing. Our sports leaders also got to have a Q & A session with Lee, gaining an insight in the world of professional sport. We are looking forward to our students engaging with the app to help them self reflect and prioritise their own wellbeing.



## Remembrance

It was wonderful that our whole school community came together to take part in our Remembrance Service. This was a solemn event and our students behaved impeccably.



The secondary service focussed on the Afghan war and the readings by our Headboy and Headgirl reflected this. The music department played beautifully and the Last Post, played by Jack Emsley was very moving. The Larch students came over to the secondary for their service and learned how remembrance and our school values are intertwined. The geography staff and students on their field trip held their own service at Walton-on-the-Naze.

### **Covid absence update**

If a sibling under 18 years old has not tested positive from a PCR test with the rest of the family, they should come to school. If not, their absence will be marked as unauthorised. Siblings, if eligible to do so, should take a Lateral flow test everyday before attending school. The day's absence to take the PCR test is marked by code X04 which denotes an authorised absence.

### **Covid – test and report**

We would like to remind students to test twice-weekly for COVID-19 at home. Reporting your tests, whether positive, negative or void, is as important as taking the test itself, as reporting results helps us understand the spread of the virus in local areas.

Lateral flow device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 cases. A recent study has shown that the accuracy of LFD tests was more than 80% effective at detecting any level of COVID-19 infection and likely to be more than 90% effective at detecting the most infectious people at the point of testing. The [GOV.UK notify service](#) enables education settings to remind students and parents to test and report easily, quickly and at no extra cost. Please make use of this service. Please test and report regularly.

## **Secondary News**

### **Geography field trip to Walton on the Naze**

The year 11 GCSE Geography students have been busy practising the fieldwork skills they have been learning about in lessons. Students spent the day at Walton-on-the-Naze gathering data about coastal processes and conflicts, as well as looking at how quality of life varies in the town. Beach profiles, groyne surveys, environmental quality surveys and traffic counts were all completed and the students will be analysing the data over the next week.



### **Christmas Lunches**

The secondary Christmas lunch will take place on Thursday 16th December. Tickets, priced £3.75 are on sale now and must be bought before Monday 22nd November. The Christmas lunch is a very special event and last year more than 750 students enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch, with the hall and dining room decorated, staff serving and festive music being played. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available. Please pay via ParentPay. The canteen will not be serving any other food.

### **Theatre Company perform to Year 7**

On 16th November, Y7 enjoyed a visit from Quantum Theatre Company who performed a version of 'A Christmas Carol', which is currently being studied in English lessons. Here are some reviews from the audience: Matilda M and Elizabeth N commented: 'The three actors' skills were impressive. It was fun to watch them using wide ranges of emotions and expressions. It was joyful and extremely loyal to the text.' Ned B observed: 'Not only did the actors successfully demonstrate an accurate and well rehearsed performance, but also had the added challenge of a timed music track, meaning there was no room for any error. The changes of costume were very good and no time was lost in between. It gave a lot of food for thought and was definitely appreciated by the audience. Amelia C summed up the learning experience: 'This production was fantastic. The three actors truly embraced the spirit of Christmas while keeping the gothic element that is crucial to the story.'





The annual Carol Service returns to All Saints' Church this year and will involve so many of our musicians, including our choirs. We look forward to welcoming our secondary community on Monday 13th December at 7pm.



Simon Balle All-through School  
**A Celebration of Christmas**  
 for our secondary phase with music and readings for the festive period  
**Monday 13th December, 7pm**  
**All Saints Church, Hertford**

### Music News

Our Concert of Wind and Brass was an amazing experience on Monday. Bringing back live music to our secondary phase was an emotional time for performers and families and it was a reminder of what we have missed! The quality of performance was outstanding and it was a real joy to listen to. Well done to all the performers who were so professional and brilliant. Details of the concert can be found here.

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/a-concert-of-wind-and-brass/>



### Music Hall of Fame update.

We have been counting down our Hall of Fame top 20 pieces each week, and students have enjoyed listening to these at the start of their assemblies. So far we have revealed the following:

- In 20th place is... Bolero by Maurice Ravel.
- In 19th place is... Le Onde by Ludovico Einaudi.
- In 18th place is... Nimrod by Elgar.
- In 17th place is... Jupiter by Holst
- In 16th place is... Raindrop Prelude by Chopin.
- In 15th place is... Rhapsody in Blue by Gershwin.
- In 14th place is... Hallelujah Chorus by Handel.
- In 13th place is... Dance of The Sugar Plum Fairy by Tchaikovsky.



JOIN US FOR  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Lunch*  
**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
*December*  
**£3.75**  
**WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS!**

### REMINDER

Last day to purchase tickets for the Christmas lunch is Monday 22nd November. You can do this via parentpay.

## Dates

Tuesday 23rd Nov	Y4 film night
Wednesday 24th Nov	6th form open evening
Thursday 25th Nov	Y7-Y11 nasal flu immunisation
Friday 26th Nov	Occasional day 1
Monday 29th Nov	Occasional day 2
Wednesday 1st to 3rd Dec	Y12 geography field trip
Saturday 4th Dec	Frost Fair
Monday 13th Dec	Secondary Carol Service (7pm)
Tuesday 14th Dec	Larch Carol Service (6pm)
Wednesday 15th Dec	Larch Christmas lunch
Thursday 16th Dec	Year 1 panto trip
Thursday 16th Dec	Secondary Christmas lunch
Friday 17th Dec	End of term - early finish
Wednesday 5th Jan	Start of Spring term

*Wishing you all an exciting and fulfilling fortnight ahead!*

*Best wishes,  
Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher) and Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)*

