

From the Principal...

It is great to welcome everyone back to school for the new term. This week's lessons have been focused and purposeful. Unfortunately there continues to be a lot of seasonal illness, particularly influenza, which has affected a number of teaching staff —we hope that everyone will be back to full health soon.

Most students have returned organised and ready to learn but not all are meeting our Linton Learner expectations. The appearance of some trainers, jewellery, nail varnish and non-standard uniform items indicates that it's necessary to remind you of our [uniform guidelines](#). We are grateful for parents and carers' support in minimising infringements and ensuring that students are smart and take pride in their membership of the College. Some students' pencil cases also have become depleted causing students to be ill-equipped for lessons. The student planner (page 7 KS3 and page 6 KS4) outlines what students are expected to bring to school for their lessons, in addition to their subject books/kit/ equipment.

Requests for financial assistance with uniform and equipment can be made to the school's Trust Fund by emailing Amanda.clay@lvc.org. Please also note an important proposal for the government's change to Free School Meals eligibility below.

The start of a New Year provides time for resolutions, changes to habits and lifestyle. I would encourage parents/carers to engage with recently published reports about healthy use of digital devices: [Gaming addiction classified as disorder by WHO](#) and [Growing Up Digital report from the Children's Commissioner](#).

'Work hard and be nice to people' is an important maxim for the school community at LVC and a resolution that we can all commit to. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Helena Marsh



Free School Meals Changes

Currently the Government is engaging in a consultation regarding proposed changes to the eligibility of Free School Meals. The deadline for responses is the 11th January 2018. The proposed changes involve replacing the current eligibility thresholds where 8 income/vulnerability based criteria are used with a single eligibility criteria linked to universal credit. Initially the suggestion is this will increase the number of vulnerable students who receive the funding, however we expect this gain to be rather short term as a number of young people currently eligible for Free School Meals will not be from families eligible for universal credit in the future. The new criteria is more of a 'wealth threshold' and does not take into account wider measures and there is no consideration of localised deprivation factors linked to relative poverty. Please find a link to the consultation, as we would encourage responses in relation to the proposals. <https://consult.education.gov.uk/healthy-pupil-unit/fsm/> and survey <https://consult.education.gov.uk/healthy-pupil-unit/fsm/consultation/intro/> Mr Clarke



Christmas Fayre

December 2017 saw another successful Christmas Fayre at LVC raising money towards Haverhill Food Bank, Linton Zoo, Maggie Wallace Centre, Water Aid, Head to Toe, Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Cancer Research. Students ran stalls selling handmade crafts and home baking, whilst others had games and prizes to be won. In total we raised £2090.16 with Nightingale raising the most out of all the houses. Mr Taylor



Jazz and Sparkle

LVC Jazz band are busy rehearsing for the Jazz and Sparkle evening on Saturday 20th January, raising money for a new piano for the music department. Please support us and bring your family and friends! Tickets are still available [here](#). Mrs Jukes



Hot Choc with the Head

Top credit scorers celebrated at the end of the autumn term with hot chocolate and cookies. We hope for a better gender balance next time!



Dates for your Diary

9th Jan	Friends of LVC Meeting @ The Crown, 7pm
15th Jan	Year 9 Eyes on the Prize
16th Jan	Aldeburgh Young Musicians Workshop
17th Jan	Mosque Trip
24th Jan	PSHE Day
25th Jan	Dalehead Foods Challenge
28th Jan	Chateau Trip

sQuid online payments

Overdue 29.11.17	November 10 Month Bus Payment Plan
Payment 17.01.18 16.03.18 27.04.18	Grade 5 Music Theory Exam Year 9 Enrichment Week Year 10 Snowdon Trip

When making payments of less than £10 for 'Trips and Offers', you must top up your online 'purse' by £10 to avoid a 25p admin fee.

Join the Friends at The Crown, Linton on Tuesday 9th January 7pm for their next meeting.