

From the Principal...

Thanks for your patience and understanding this week with the disruption caused by the 'Beast from the East'. School closure decisions in response to the weather are difficult calls to make and rely on a number of factors that are unique to each school. Being able to open safely relies on: an accessible site; the condition of local roads; adequate staffing levels and a consideration of the forecast. This is a movable feast, as Wednesday proved. I appreciate that public opinion will always be divided in such matters, which is why decision-making always comes down to best professional judgement with the full information available at the time. I am grateful to parents/carers for their support and to colleagues for managing the closure and working behind the scenes to clear snow, risk-assess roads and communicate updates.

This week has highlighted the importance of having accurate contact numbers for parents/carers to be able to get in touch in the event of an emergency. Please do make sure that you have updated us with any changes in personal details by contacting Alison Miners, Administration Manager (alison.miners@lvc.org).

The weather conditions have overshadowed other events this week. Thursday was National Offer Day for secondary schools. LVC received 334 applications for Year 7 places, including 185 first choice preferences. Our PAN (Pupil Admission Number) is 165. In recent years we have accepted up to 180 students in response to the increasing demand for places. At present we are accepting students up to the last oversubscription criteria, but need to prepare for growing housing. Please see below for further information about our admissions consultation process.

Unfortunately we missed out on celebrating World Book Day and had to cancel the GCSE Science Live! Trip and Year 9 Parents' Evening; This has been rescheduled to Thursday 19th April. I look forward to some normality and routine, and hopefully welcoming spring!



Helena Marsh

Music exams

Thirty six students took ABRSM music exams at the College in February, including children from a number of our primary schools. A hard-core group of LVC students also braved the elements to sit their Grade 5 Theory exam on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to Mrs Crump for staying in school to invigilate and to parents/carers for their support in enabling students to attend. *Mrs Jukes*



Admissions consultation

Thank you to parents/carers that responded to our consultation regarding proposed changes to the LVC Admissions Policy. Due to the level of concerns about modifications to the over-subscription criteria, the only change that has been submitted to the Local Authority for 2018/2019 is the recognition of Great Sampford as a partner primary school. We will be refining the policy in response to stakeholder feedback and sharing further consultation for 2019/2020 admissions. Common themes included the need for siblings to have a higher status and worries about the ability for families living out of catchment and attending partner primaries to gain a place at LVC in the future. We have raised these concerns with governors and will continue to do so with Suffolk, Essex and Cambs LAs, who only recognise county catchment numbers in their demographic forecasts. *Mrs Marsh and Mrs Matarazzo*

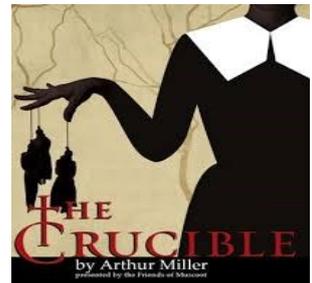
Year 10 interviews

We were joined by many volunteers from local industries to support our students with their employability skills on Wednesday morning. Unfortunately proceedings were curtailed due to the weather conditions and we will need to reschedule a number of the interviews, but many Year 10 students benefited from an opportunity to present themselves and their CVs in an authentic way. We are grateful to local employers for giving up their time and staff freely to support our careers education. *Mr Simmons*

The Crucible rehearsals

Full rehearsals for the upcoming school production took place over the weekend. The technical team tackled the snowy conditions to set up the lighting and staging and the whole cast were involved in a full run through on Sunday. The students' commitment and resilience has been exemplary. We look forward to three successful nights this week. Tickets For Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening are available through the [Ticket Source website](#). Please do come to support the students. Any raffle donations should be sent to ourselves by Wednesday morning.

Mrs Davill and Mrs Crump



Dates for your Diary

6 March	Years 8 & 9 HPV Vaccinations (Girls Only) Year 11 BTEC Business Exam Retake
7-9 March	School Production The Crucible
12 March	Year 11 Practical Food Exam
14 March	Year 11 Practical Food Exam Year 11 Woman in Black Trip Year 8 Parents' Meeting

sQuid online payments

Payment

05.03.18	DoE Expedition
16.03.18	Year 9 Enrichment Week
27.04.18	Year 10 Snowdon Trip
13.07.18	Year 10 Murcia Trip

sQuid catering system

If you would like your child's spending capped at a daily amount please contact Mrs Fenn via email helen.fenn@lvc.org.

Don't forget to sign up to LVC social media accounts to keep to date with school news and updates.



Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for school news

