

## *Marsh Mail*

One of the most memorable moments of the spring term at LVC (heavy snow aside) has been the College's production of 'The Crucible'. The play was an absolute triumph and showcased incredibly accomplished performances by our students. The high standard of compelling acting was very impressive for an 11-16 College, especially given the mature themes in Arthur Miller's play.

Performing a script that centres on the Salem Witch Trials in 1690s Massachusetts certainly stretched the students' dramatic skills as well as their historical knowledge. Miller wrote this as an allegory for McCarthyism in 1950s America. This rich political undercurrent offered powerful messages for members of the audience and cast with some very emotional and poignant scenes, demonstrating the spell-binding power of the Arts.

The cast and crew developed in all sorts of ways in the lead up to show nights. Team work, commitment, confidence and resilience, to name a few of the aspects of personal growth.

Historically, when discussing subject option choices with students as they make decisions about their future studies, a number of them have shared the view that the Arts subjects will provide light relief from their other options, or even, sadly, that they are hobbies rather than academic courses. It is credit to the Arts Faculty that these misconceptions are not widely held at LVC. In recent years we've seen a dramatic increase in numbers of students opting for Arts subjects.

With current technological advances it's arguably those that are most creative in their fields that will exceed the functions of automation. Additionally, the creative industries provide a significant proportion of employment opportunities and £84 billion annually to the UK economy. Any student (or adult) that has experienced the pain-staking commitment of learning lines and perfecting a performance, hours of instrumental practice or artistic experimentation will appreciate the discipline and dedication required to excel in creative arts.

I was thoroughly proud of the achievements of students and staff to achieve such stunning performances. 'The Crucible' was an example of the power and beauty of the Arts and an important reminder of the importance of enriching, educational opportunities.