

16 December 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Early on Sunday mornings in the late 1980's, I would sneak downstairs (making sure to avoid the squeaky stair and the half-feral cat), grab a slice of toast with Nutella on it and watch an hour of Transworld Sport in blissful solitude... there was something deeply cool about the programme (in a ten year old's mind). Yes, it would spend some time dealing with the main sporting stories of the week, but the part I enjoyed most was the way in which it sought out the niche, the unglamorous, the curious. To date, Mongolian Yak Polo was as far 'out there' as I can remember.

Looking back, it felt that there was no hierarchy in the sports they highlighted, nor where they filmed – in fact, to date TWS have filmed in 183 of the 203 IOC member nations, Somalia and North Korea included. The programme is still in fine fettle you'll be pleased to hear, but most recently, I found myself drawn into watching TeqBall ([Teqball](#)) – the world champs, as you ask. It's table tennis, meets volleyball meets keepie-uppies on a sloping table-tennis table. I must confess it didn't capture my attention hugely – not sure LWC will be Teqball schools' champions in 2024 - but what it did do for me was draw parallels where society and education are going.

Progress, whether in education, health, science, technology is made in today's world by collaborating, mixing, merging and colliding ideas together. Modern education is beginning to embrace learning in the margins (albeit not quickly enough at a national level). It is why Creative Digital Media and Enterprise and Entrepreneurship have been growing in popularity in the last few years at LWC. It is why school menus are now a kaleidoscope of culinary cultures (notably with our new Head of Catering and brilliant chefs on board (admittedly the World Cup helps too) and why the 1200 Project is beginning to flourish as we enhance our awareness of the benefits of our environment. It is not simply that we have a farm. That said, the hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters have been helping our crop growth.

This year, the farm produced 1332 tonnes of wheat. Figures vary, but general consensus is that 1 tonne of wheat will produce somewhere between 1,500 to 1,700 loaves of bread. Using an average of 1,600 means that the farm produced enough wheat this year to make 2.1 million loaves of bread – I can't believe it is just me who is utterly amazed by this figure which I'll repeat... **LWC has been able to generate 2.1 million loaves of bread this year...** No doubt some of that has found its way back to LWC for the breaktime and post school feeding frenzy in the boarding houses. Alas not all - we don't have a mill, granary or bakery – nor is it in the Strategy 2030 Plan. But it is an alluring thought that the fields you walked and ran through at The Beckwith produced your breakfast toast or lunchtime sarney...



LONG SUTTON, HOOK RG29 1TA  
Telephone: 01256 862201 Email: [info@lordwandsworth.org](mailto:info@lordwandsworth.org)  
[WWW.LORDWANDSWORTH.ORG](http://WWW.LORDWANDSWORTH.ORG)

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## **LWC goes even greener**

Our focus on sustainability in all its guises has remained at the fore, and not simply because of spiralling energy prices. Most recently, and on the back of years of sustainable decision-making, we are / have;

- Started planting our Centenary Wood (Oak and Beech primarily) just South of the farm buildings and created space for a further outdoor classroom there
- Replaced 90% of lights on site to LED ones
- Opened up the first six car electric charging points for your use
- Initiated the latest round of PV panels on buildings (Sports Hall and maintenance yard roofs for 2023)
- Completed a review of all power and energy usage on site
- Enhanced irrigation of the pitches on site using water captured from the Science Centre roof
- Working on upgrading energy transformers on site
- Scalping and reseeded the final part of the main playing fields this summer with our grass that resists droughts more effectively and sequesters carbon incredibly well. In fact, it sequesters more carbon per square metre than a British woodland or wildflower meadow (we've seeded a fair few of these as well recently).

You will continue to hear the language of 'The 1200' in the LWC lexicon. It is our community vision of sustainability, environmentalism and experience of the outdoors. It is a clarion call to the outdoors and four decades on from the 'Why don't you?' TV programme for children, encouraging them to do something different. Remember [this?](#)

## **Campus developments**

Beyond this, we are also continuing our work on the soon to be new Sixth Form Centre (summer 2023) as well as completing work on the interim library, putting the finishing touches to the permanent lighting on the netball and tennis courts by Park (opening at the start of next term) and installing lights along the Cinder Track for our juniors (after a year in and out of planning). This is just the start of the next steps of our strategic journey.

## **A term in the life of...**

But back to the term. It has been a wonderful festival of activity and joy.

We have seen Science Days, The Beckwith, the Carol Service under the stars, Open Mornings, Assessment Days, Autumn music concerts and Devises to Westminster training (record numbers) to name but a few. We are also incredibly fortunate that applications to join LWC are very significant once more, notably in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sixth Form, with another 4% increase in total school numbers highly likely for September, a figure that is much against the sector norm. We also hope

to move even closer to 50:50 in the gender split (currently 43% - the highest in our history). Thank you so much for your advocacy and telling our story to so many. It is hugely appreciated and enables us to be even more ambitious for your children and our school in the years ahead. Let us hope that energy prices don't slow our ambition too much in the short term.

I am convinced that all those individuals involved in the concept of LWC over 100 years ago would be delighted as to its positive impact and place in society these days, not to mention Johnny Johnson, our incredible Sternian who passed away in early December at 101 years, and who I spoke to the school about last week.

### **The West End...**

The Performing Arts world is growing quietly and impressively too, with music (under Aaron Parker's leadership), Dance (Tracy Williams) and Drama (Gemma Reeks) starting to consistently raise its head above the parapet. We have had several mesmerising evenings - the Autumn Concert, Dance Night and Pupil-led Cabaret being three such superb examples. The quality of the music and performance is as good as I can remember since starting at LWC. Even if you don't have your child performing, do book a ticket and bring the family. They are great nights out.

Our Centenary Choir (which is filled with parents) is also flourishing. Their much awaited debut is now only a few months away!

### **Beyond the World cup...**

From a pupils' perspective, the term has been a very positive one. The new 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lower Sixth have settled in very well, working hard, making friends, and more broadly, the pupils have been delivering some excellent results in the co-curricular world.

This term we have played 180 girls hockey fixtures and 130 Rugby fixtures across the whole school. I am not quite sure how many slices of cake have been consumed...

#### **Hockey (girls)**

- U14 hockey finished 2nd in the Regional T1 hockey finals (placing them in the top 10 U14 sides in the UK). They also remain unbeaten for the season
- 1<sup>st</sup> XI reached the last 16 of the T3 England Hockey National Cup, losing narrowly on penalty strokes
- Approximately 25 players boys and girls are involved in England Hockey performance levels

#### **Rugby (boys)**

- U14 A and B team were undefeated, as were the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV
- U16 lost in a last minute Hampshire County Cup final thriller
- 1st XV have won 75% of games (best in decades) and have reached the Hampshire County Plate Final

### Showjumping

- We qualified as best 85cm Show Jumping Schools Team in Hampshire - and have a place at the schools final at Hickstead in May

### Girls football

- For the first time ever the girls U18's and U15's football fixtures will take place – the fixture list is ready!

### Sporting kaleidoscope

- The joy of LWC is the variety of other sports on offer and we have children competing / training at a regional/ national level in Ice Hockey, Show jumping, Gymnastics, Modern Pentathlon, Skiing, Basketball and American Football too.

As we look further into the depth of Strategy 2030 planning having an ability to grow the more individualised sports will be invaluable as well as lifting the ceiling on elite performance. Padel tennis, climbing and triathlons look like three potential candidates... and golf, of course. Alas, pickleball, bog snorkelling and boxing chess may have to wait.

### In conclusion

And so, the Christmas turkey season is upon us - assuming they can be persuaded out of their sheds having dodged avian flu.

I hope you have a wonderful few weeks before we meet back in 2023 with the evenings drawing out and the snowdrops bursting through.

After a week of alpine ACL rupture avoidance and then Speedgolf training, I will be settling down to watch some [Bossaball](#) - volleyball, football, gymnastics and music collided into one. That, and a staple diet of Kabbadi; Transworld Sport's flagship.

Have a terrific holiday. Your children have been quite wonderful this term.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Adam Williams  
**Headmaster**