



## Lupton House

Housemaster  
AG McClure BA PGCE

[amcclure@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:amcclure@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

## BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Worcester Road  
Bromsgrove  
Worcestershire B61 7DU

Tel: 01527 579679 ext.229

Fax: 01527 576177

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Dear Parents,

I imagine there will have been a few lie-ins this morning at the end of this intense half term. Having said that, plenty of your lads are busy elsewhere on various trips like the Spanish trip, Duke of Edinburgh expedition and the Antigua cricket tour, with the German exchange trip still to come at the end of the break. All good for the soul, but every pupil will be ready for some rest and recuperation in preparation for a no doubt equally busy summer term.

I hope this newsletter gives you a snapshot of the term in Lupton, much as I summarised it at yesterday's final House Assembly.

The Lent term is an important one for mock examinations and January saw the Fifth Form pitting themselves against the clock to gain experience but also learn lessons in subject specific examination techniques. Likewise, the Sixth Form returned after half term to much the same process. Equally, this term has been a crucial one for many of the controlled assessments and pieces of project work now nearing final marking and moderation, which can certainly heighten the sense of pressure and heralds the season of 'real' examinations. In the first set of effort and attainment grades, I was pleased to nominate Joseph Bellamy (L6) and Jagveer Uppal (U4) for Headmaster's commendations for their effort averages of 1.4 and 1.5 respectively. Other pupils who gained commendations were:

### *School commendations:*

Upper 6: Jake Bolger, William Edwards, Fraser Foster, Jonny Howcroft, Michael Matthews, Fraser Merrick, Niall Slater

Lower 6: Oliver Goodwin, Nicholas Martin

5<sup>th</sup> Form: James Bromley, Dominic Gardner, Aled Luckman, Hayden Owen, Edward Shinner, Henry Stone

Upper 4: Archie Batham-Read, Morgan Bennett, Lewis Maddox, Charles Sapwell

Lower 4: Jamie Cox, Harry Dodworth, Rorie Dodworth, Freddie Harvey-Gilson, Elliot Mason, Iain Messori, Joshua Osborn-Patel, Ben Russell

### *House commendations:*

Upper 6: Bo Hands

Lower 6: Alex Dew

In the Lent 2 grades, Lupton's overall effort average continued to move in the right direction, exactly on the 2.0 criterion of 'Good', with just under half of the House thus commended for scoring below the 2.0 mark. Fraser Foster (U6) led the way with a perfect score of 1.0 (even better than the score for his Headmaster's commendation in the Michaelmas term), whilst Nicholas Martin (L6) and Freddie Harvey-Gilson (L4) were duly put forward for Headmaster's commendations for 1.4 and 1.5 respectively, with other commendations as follows:

### *School commendations:*

Upper 6: William Edwards, Fraser Foster, Niall Slater, Jonty Thornton

Lower 6: Ben Adamson, Joseph Bellamy,

5<sup>th</sup> Form: James Bromley, Dominic Gardner, George Hatfield, Aled Luckman, Frederick Owen, Hayden Owen, Oliver Plummer, Edward Shinner, Alexander Spurgin, Tristan Stephens-Jones, Henry Stone, Gabriel Thornton

Upper 4: Archie Batham-Read, Morgan Bennett, Andreas Frangeskou, Jonathan Green, Joseph Harper, Ben Humphries, Lewis Maddox, Charles Sapwell, Jagveer Uppal

Lower 4: Jamie Cox, Harry Dodworth, Rorie Dodworth, Elliot Mason, Iain Messori, Joshua Osborn-Patel, Ben Russell

### *House commendations:*

Upper 4: Thomas Anning

However, school days should not all be about work, and straight after the January mocks there was the opportunity for a bit of ten-pin bowling, courtesy of our Lupton Parents' Association. Sixty Luptonians filled eight lanes of Rubery's Hollywood Bowl and, fuelled by burgers, began to unleash (or not) their inner curve ball. In truth, some were also glad of the lane bumpers but, as scores were verified, the following emerged triumphant as champions of their year groups: Jonny Howcroft (U6), Lawrence Hill (L6), Jamie Day (F5), Tommy Murray (U4) and Fin Morgan (L4, who with 145 was the night's top scorer).



One of the biggest challenges for the House this term has been our temporary move to the old Police Station building during the refurbishment of the Lupton Cottage. I shall be glad to return to Lupton for the central hub of our Day Room rather than the year-group existence encouraged by the layout of our present location, but our systems really have meant minimal fuss in transferring the daily business of school life. Despite the extra walking required, we are certainly fortunate to have the use of a spacious facility prior to our return to the revamped Lupton.

On to House competitions, and the seasonal cross country and 1.2 relay events. In the senior cross country, Nick Papaioannou (L6) finished in third place, with Benedict Mann (L6) in ninth and Nick Martin (L6) and Jacob Matthews (F5) also in the top twenty. Our original junior team line-up was much depleted due to the exploits of the U15 XV rugby cup semi-final the day before, but those who stepped up for the cause on the morning did themselves proud.



*Senior Cross-Country:*

Nick Martin,  
Nick Papaioannou,  
Jacob Matthews,  
Benedict Mann,  
Oliver Plummer,  
Jamie Day,  
Henry Stone,  
Freddie Owen

*Junior Cross-Country:*

Andreas Frangeskou  
Tommy Murray  
Ben Hollingworth  
Alfie Broadhurst  
Theo Gardner  
Ben Russell  
Will Bellamy  
Awais Mohammed



Several of these runners were also our 1.2 Relay team, an event which requires six individual runners with at least one from each year group. The Reds almost pinched a podium place thanks to a superb anchor leg from Nick Papaioannou: when he started by the Chapel, the Elmhurst runner in front was already down on Lower Charford; by the end of the race, Nick was within 20 metres of the same man and had run the fastest leg of the whole event to claim the trophy for that feat.



1.2 Relay team:  
Fraser Merrick  
Benedict Mann  
Nick Papaioannou  
Jacob Matthews  
Morgan Bennett  
Ben Hollingworth



In other events, our two senior Badminton pairs of Jake Bolger, Jonty Thornton (both U6), Oliver Goodwin and Lawrence Hill (both L6) competed heartily, if inconsistently, against some of the experts from the boarding Houses. Henry Stone and Oliver Plummer (both F5) represented us in the Debating competition, proposing the motion *This House would add the Harry Potter books to the school curriculum*. They did so with plenty of touches of style and humour which won the floor vote of Lupton, Gryffindor et al, but unfortunately did not convince the Sorting Hat to put them through to the final which took place earlier this week.

This year's Lupton Open Mic Night proved to be another very enjoyable evening with a range of performers from across the year groups. I really do see it as a unique opportunity at school for anyone to have a go at performing whatever they wish, from Chopin to Chopsticks, from poetry to juggling, in front of an entirely supportive live audience without the perception and pressure of a school concert. As if to prove this, for the traditional U6 finale, they used a music backing track for a film montage of their Lupton moments over five years – a super and rather poignant end to the evening's entertainment. Our programme included items from the following performers:

Ben Hollingworth (L4) on saxophone; Will Bellamy (L4) on drums; Benedict Mann and Nick Martin (L6) both individually and 'duelling' on guitars; Freddie Harvey-Gilson (L4) on trombone; Michael Matthews (U6) on electric guitar; Josh Osborn-Patel (L4) on French horn; Jamie Day (F5) on guitar; Joe Bellamy (L6) on ukulele with Benedict Mann; Charles Sapwell (U4) on trumpet.



The last Saturday of term saw a jamboree of House sport with both the hockey and football competition, at senior and junior level. First up were the junior competitions, which saw both Alfie Broadhurst's hockey team and Andreas Frangeskou's footballers progress efficiently to the final of each competition (including four goals in one game for Ben Humphries). Sadly, in the hockey we went down 0-2 to a useful School House side; in the football, too, we were up against it for much of the game against Wendron-Gordon, only for Fin Morgan to come up with a priceless goal which saw us claim victory and some silverware.



*Junior hockey:*

Alfie Broadhurst, Morgan Bennett,  
Joe Harper, Lewis Maddox,  
Charles Sapwell (U4);

Theo Gardner, Ben Hollingworth,  
Elliot Mason (L4).

*Junior football:*

Archie Batham-Read,  
Andreas Frangeskou, Jonny  
Green, Will Hallows, Ben  
Humphries, Isaac Jaya, Joe  
May (U4);

Will Bellamy, Freddie Harvey-  
Gilson, Fin Morgan (L4).



In the senior competitions, Jonny Howcroft's young hockey squad had an intense afternoon of round-robin format with some plucky performances such as a mere 0-1 defeat to the strong Elmshurst side and a creditable 2-2 draw with Walters. Certainly no shame in defeats, and some sparkling individual play from Gabriel Thornton. It would be fair to say that Fraser Merrick's footballers took some time to get into the swing of things with losses to Lyttelton, Walters and a scoreless draw against School. However, something then gelled and three wins on the trot against Elmshurst, Wendron-Gordon and the fancied Housman Hall saw us propelled on to the runners up podium. [I hope that Tottenham's season ends with a similar run of victories!]



*Senior hockey:*

Jonny Howcroft (U6);

Ollie Fender, Lawrence  
Hill (L6);

Aled Luckman, Alex  
Mason, Freddie Owen,  
Hayden Owen, Oliver  
Plummer, Tristan  
Stephens-Jones, Gabriel  
Thornton (F5).

*Senior football:*

Fraser Merrick, Will Edwards,  
Bo Hands, Jonty Thornton (U6);

Joe Bellamy, Himmat Bhandal,  
Oliver Goodwin, Jasper  
Merrick, Nick Papaioannou,  
James Prince (L6);

George Hatfield (F5)



A fabulous afternoon of House sport, then, especially with one victory and two runners up places. Even more importantly though for House spirit was the opportunity for 40 boys to put on a red shirt and participate for the Lupton cause – such camaraderie is priceless. A look at the photos shows as well how lucky we are to have fantastic branded House kit as a direct result of the money raised at the various PA functions.



All this sporting talk is not to forget those who have participated in the Arts this term. I continue to enjoy all of the soirees, concerts and anthems in Chapel performed by those who put regular weekly practice into such performances by the various ensembles in school. Equally, our thespians have spoiled us this term: Tom Anning, Will Porter and Will Bellamy were part of the successful Fourth Form production, *The Musicians*. This side of half term, headlines have been gained by all of those involved in the Artrix production of *Sweeney Todd*. From the Lupton perspective, I was delighted to see Ed Shinner and Aled Luckman on stage, aided by the backstage work of Fraser Foster, Dominic Gardner and Alex Spurgin, and our Tutors Ms Densem and Mr McKelvey in charge of the make-up and musical direction respectively.



The last week of term brought the customary round of final assemblies, highlighting the extent of pupils' regular participation in extra-curricular activities, particularly those who have turned out for School teams on a weekly basis in sports as varied as hockey, football, rugby sevens, cross country, golf and swimming, not to mention those already in training for cricket. It was good to see both Jonty Thornton and Jonny Howcroft (our Heads of House) on stage for their part in the Twickenham victory shared by so many in the school; congratulations too to Jonty for being awarded his School Cap for rugby.

At the final House Assembly, I was delighted to award House colours ties to the following young men:

*Junior Lupton colours:* William Bellamy, Ben Hollingworth, Ben Russell (all L4)

*Senior Lupton colours:* Oliver Goodwin, Lawrence Hill (L6)  
James Bromley, Dominic Gardner, Jacob Matthews, Oliver Plummer,  
Henry Stone, Gabriel Thornton (F5)

The final House awards to mention are the Countess's Pennies, awarded each term to somebody in each year group who has played their part in House and School life during the term; it is rare that a pupil receives two of these in their time at Bromsgrove. This term's Pennies were awarded to:

Upper 6: Fraser Foster  
Lower 6: Morgan Berry  
5<sup>th</sup> Form: Gabriel Thornton  
Upper 4: Alfie Broadhurst  
Lower 4: Finley Morgan

And so the Lent term came to a close with thanks to our Tutor team and Angela, a gentle reminder to the Fifth and Sixth Forms of the revision required for examinations when we return, but mostly mention of a well-deserved break for all.

As ever, please do feel free to contact me on any matter either by telephone (extension 229) or email ([amcclure@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:amcclure@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)).

I wish you all a Happy Easter with your families.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. McClure". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

P.S. A date for your diaries next term:

Friday 24 June

Lupton PA Summer Party, from 6pm at the cricket pavilion