



Lupton House

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Dear All,

How good it has been, especially for our leavers, to finish the year back in new/old Lupton House. One month after we moved back in, it is still looking grand and it was lovely to witness the look of pleasant surprise on the faces of many Old Luptonians at Commemoration as they came in through the new entrance. In writing the House *Bromsgrovian* report earlier this week, I included a quote from Churchill who, when debating the restoration of the House of Commons Chamber after the Blitz, remarked "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." Current Luptonians certainly now have that opportunity.

In my half term review, I mentioned that an afternoon had been found to re-arrange the Junior and Intermediate events of the previously washed-out Sports Day. The PE Department have kept us waiting but, at the end of term it was announced that our Intermediate team emerged as victors. Well done to all of the following who belatedly got to perform for the Reds' cause at the Ryland Centre:

- Junior Will Bellamy, Theo Gardner, Freddie Harvey-Gilson, Ben Hollingworth, Nick Jakobsen, James Lou, Seb Mehjoo, Fin Morgan, Josh Osborn-Patel, Ben Russell (all L4)
- Inter Tom Anning, Morgan Bennett, Andreas Frangeskou, Jonny Green, Joe Harper, ben Humphries, Isaac Jaya, Lewis Maddox, Jacob Mann, Camran Rai-Watson, Charles Sapwell (all U4)

Still on the sporting front, Lawrence Hill (L6) looked on course to defend the School's golf championship successfully, but was pipped in a play-off by another Luptonian, Evan Lewis (U4). With Joe Bellamy (L6) and Alfie Broadhurst (U4) also regulars on the golf circuit, I still keep dropping unsubtle hints, as yet to no avail, that golf deserves a House competition! Our defence of the Junior House cricket started very efficiently with Ben Humphries' men chalking up comfortable victories over School House and Walters to reach the final against Lyttelton. Unfortunately, circumstances (and the weather) at the end of term meant that the final had to take place on the same day as an U15 cup fixture, thus depriving us of six key players. I was proud of the spirit in Evan Lewis' team, particularly those who stepped up, including some willing athletes; despite Lyttelton being well worth their victory on the day, they had to work harder for it than many had assumed would be the case. The squad over the two competition days included:



Ben Humphries (capt), Tom Anning, Archie Batham-Read, Morgan Bennett, Alfie Broadhurst, Jonny Green, Joe Harper, Isaac Jaya, Evan Lewis, Lewis Maddox (U4); Ben Hollingworth, Nick Jakobsen, Elliot Mason, Seb Mehjoo, Awais Mohammed, Fin Morgan, Ben Russell (L4).

The only other House competition term has been the House Bake-Off. this is shouldered by the L6 year, most of them were rather reticent part this year. Nevertheless, with a 'Space', Nick Martin took on the Having duly baked a couple of proceeded to decorate, aided by something that demonstrated a law, which he was more than happy the spectators. All rather above my head, if I'm honest, but if nothing confirm that it was a tasty bit of



this half of Traditionally, although to play their theme of challenge. cakes, he Joe Bellamy, Newtonian to explain to Arts-based else, I can cake.

With an eye on September, there was the chance for parents of next year's new Lupton Lower Fourth Form to visit the House and get a feel for the place over a cup of tea with some Sixth Form pupils, Angela, Mr Beet and myself. The boys themselves have also spent a couple of days in the House in order to familiarise themselves with the surroundings, which will hopefully have settled a few of their inevitable nerves surrounding such a change. On first impressions, we appear to be welcoming a good range of talents and personalities which should all add to the Day Room mix.

It was great to see several of this new intake at the Lupton Summer Party at the end of the penultimate week of term. My thanks to all who attended this event, particularly the Dads who took part in the cricket match which was a thoroughly good-humoured affair against the Lads XI – bragging rights to the Dads this year. The weather was kind, the hog roast was, as always, superb and I tried to summarise all too briefly what each of our U6 leavers has contributed in their various ways to Lupton over their time in the House, before presenting them with their Lupton leavers' ties and cuff links. Many thanks again to the P.A. for their help in organising and catering for such an enjoyable evening.

And so, to the Commemoration period itself. At the final Routh Hall assembly of the term, Will Edwards and Michael Matthews received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards and graded music certificates were presented to Josh Osborn-Patel (Grade 8 French Horn), Archie Batham-Read (Grade 5 Jazz Trumpet) and Ben Hollingworth (Grade 5 Jazz Alto Saxophone). Major colours were awarded to Will Edwards (tennis), Fraser Foster (athletics and drama), and Jonty Thornton (athletics), whilst Minor colours were announced for George Hatfield (cricket), Aled Luckman (music and drama), Oliver Plummer (athletics) and Ed Shinner (drama). At Mark Reading in the afternoon, Josh Osborn-Patel picked up two L4 subject prizes, with Harry Dodworth and Ben Russell also claiming L4 endeavour prizes. One of the School awards was presented to Fraser Foster, winning the trophy for Best Overall Contribution to the Extra-Curricular Life of the School. On Commemoration Day itself, Dominic Hegarty received the John Hedley Memorial Prize for his service to the CCF. Congratulations to all those listed above on recognition of their varied contributions to School life.

At my final House Assembly of the year I congratulated our 'new' pupils for integrating themselves successfully into the House in their first year. I congratulated all those who have contributed in any extra-curricular sphere at School and House level over the year, particularly the musicians who are always busy around Commemoration time. Pleasingly, we have collected several pieces of silverware this year in the junior badminton, junior football, and intermediate athletics, plus the fastest 1.2 leg. There have also been some close seconds in senior football, junior hockey, junior basketball and junior cricket, as well as a final place in the junior debating. However, just as importantly, Lupton still takes pride in participating wholeheartedly in all House competitions, whatever our pedigree on paper. I also reminded the House of our reputation for charitable donation. This year we have maintained our average of more than £1 per pupil on School own clothes days. Also, purely on a House level, we have raised just over £1500, mostly through donations at the Lupton Ball, which will be split between two charities chosen by the Upper Sixth pupils, the *QE Fighting Skin Cancer Appeal* and *Papyrus*.

A summary of other House end of term/year awards is as follows:

Summer 2016 Countess's Pennies: William Bellamy (L4)
Andreas Frangeskou (U4)
Freddie Owen (F5)

Jasper Merrick (L6)
Dominic Hegarty (U6)

2015/16 Commendation Prizes: Ben Russell (L4)
Lewis Maddox (U4)
Aled Luckman (F5)
Nicholas Martin (L6)
Michael Matthews (U6)

Lupton House P.A. Awards: Will Edwards, Jonathan Howcroft,
Michael Matthews, Jonty Thornton

My choice for the Brazier Cup is always difficult and so I include my words announcing the recipient, not just to share his contributions as an ambassador for Lupton, but also to outline just what sort of character was required to receive the award this year.

“The Brazier Cup is awarded each year to the U6 pupil who has made a huge contribution to Lupton House during their time at the School. This year’s winner is one of the most loyal Luptonians even I have met, as well as an all-round Bromsgrovian: over five years he has always looked for opportunities to participate for both causes in many fields. His commitment to his academic work is first class, he is a School monitor. He has been a huge contributor to House and School events in almost every sphere: he has played team sport in the rugby and athletic terms, but also contributed to areas such as backstage work in drama; he has done so many things for the Reds, both in and out of his comfort zone, such as when he delivered the Routh reading in the Arena simply because “it is something I should experience before I leave”. He has a genuine interest in anything or anyone involved with Lupton, whether that involves staff or an U6 or L4 pupil, whether it is an enterprise in which we have talent or not. He wears his talents lightly, but his enthusiasm for life is both endearing and highly infectious. His optimism sees the best in everyone, and consequently there are few, if any, who have a bad word to say about him. On so many occasions, and through so many video clips, he has shown himself a true Luptonian, and one of our best ambassadors – the winner of the Brazier Cup this year is Fraser Foster.”

I also announced the House Monitor team for next academic year which comprises Ben Adamson, Joe Bellamy, Lawrence Hill, Benedict Mann, Nicholas Martin and Nick Papaioannou and offered my congratulations to Ben Adamson and Joe Bellamy who both accepted their respective invitations to become Head and Deputy Head of Lupton House for 2016/17.

And so, the Assembly turned to thanks and gifts for our Housekeeper Angela (whose vital part in the running of the House it is all too easy to take for granted) and our splendid Tutor team. Sadly, we bid farewell to Miss Keys this year: her academic qualities, supreme work ethic and pastoral care will no doubt make her a huge success in her new Deputy Head role at Gordonstoun, where we all wish her well. We shall miss her demanding standards for her tutees to push themselves and I, personally, will miss our discussions on academia, as well as her wonderful Ulster accent - a reminder of my homeland.

Finally, my thanks go to pupils and parents for your support over the last year, and my best wishes to the families for whom this year sees the end of your direct association with Lupton and the School. You know you will be most welcome to visit us in the future, perhaps at Commemoration, like those Old Luptonians I mentioned at the start of this newsletter. I may see several of you on those much-anticipated results days in August. I trust that those on exciting trips, whether organised by school or family, enjoy them thoroughly and create lasting personal memories. To all of you, I hope you have a fantastic summer with your sons.

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.