

# LIFE AT LITCHAM

## Spring Issue 01

## February

Welcome to our latest school newsletter. Inside you'll find updates, key information and a snapshot of the learning, achievements and opportunities across our school.

### A Festive First: Whole School Debate Afternoon

#### Miss Timblin and The Motivators

Thursday 18 December marked a truly memorable milestone for our school as we hosted our very first whole school debate – and what a fantastic event it was!

Each tutor group had nominated students to represent their group two weeks previously, and even the choice of candidates was approached with maturity.

Each year group researched a set topic in advance, preparing during tutor time in the weeks leading up to the event. It wasn't until the students were about to debate did they discover which side of the argument they would be on. This was chosen after a roll of the dice!

Round after round, students impressed judges and audiences alike with their ability not only to express their own views clearly and persuasively, but also to listen carefully, accept alternative viewpoints and counter arguments thoughtfully and maturely. The level of respect, reasoning and resilience on display was remarkable. However, the real challenge came in the final rounds: finalists were given a brand-new topic, minimal preparation time and still no fixed "side". This would once again be chosen with the roll of the dice.

These final debates pushed students even further. Year 7 brilliantly tackled "Has Christmas lost its true meaning?", while Year 8 delivered a thoughtful and passionate discussion on how schools can do more to support the environment. Years 9 and 10 rose impressively to some particularly challenging and controversial topics, both centred around the right to life, including debates on the assisted dying bill and abortion.

Their maturity, sensitivity and depth of understanding were exceptional.

**The initial topics were:**

- **Year 7: Animal testing**
- **Year 8: Gender stereotypes**
- **Year 9: Should we have an NHS?**
- **Year 10: Should the UK have ever left the EU?**

Selecting overall winners was no easy task. Our judges and Chair worked diligently, applying a strict set of criteria to ensure fair and careful decision-making.

#### Overall Winners

- Year 7: Millie S and Caidon R (7W)
- Year 8: Harriet R and Charlie C (8C)
- Year 9: Elwood W and Jemima L (9W)
- Year 10: Martha K and Lucy S (10W)

#### Thank you

The Motivators and Miss Timblin would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved – students, staff, judges and supporters – for making this event such a success. This debate was not only a celebration of oracy and critical thinking, but also a powerful reminder of the confidence, empathy and intellect of our students.

A wonderful way to end the term, and we can't wait for the next one!



**The Motivators**

Following the success of our recent Debate Afternoon, the Motivators are excited to invite students to apply for our brand-new Debate Club. If you enjoy discussing a range of topics and want to develop your debating skills, we'd love to hear from you.

**To apply, write a short paragraph explaining why you think you would be a great debater and hand it to Miss Timblin by the end of this half term, Friday 13th February.**

Not an email, but an actual piece of paper. Don't forget to include your name!



## Student Receptionists - Y7 & Y8

### Office & Reception

Year 7 and Year 8 students play an important role as student receptionists. For one day they are selected in supporting the daily running of the school office and reception. With confidence and enthusiasm, they welcome visitors, help answer questions, and pass on messages, giving a friendly first impression of the school. Working alongside office staff, they learn responsibility, teamwork, and professional communication skills. Their help with these duties keeps the reception area organised and calm, but also gives younger students a valuable insight into how a secondary school operates, building confidence and a strong sense of contribution to the school community. Thank you to all those who have taken part and we look forward to continuing this role of responsibility.

## Maths - Revision & Pi Day

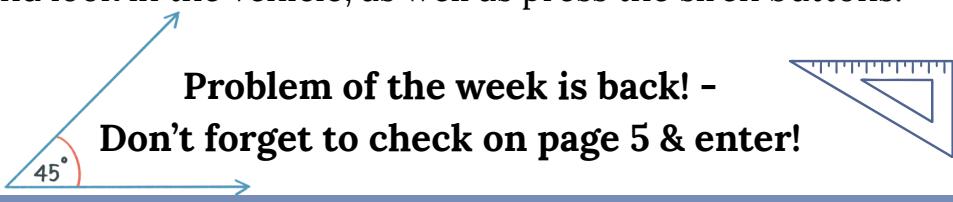
Miss Fisher, Miss Nicholas, Ms Molenaar, Mr Clark and Mr Phillips

**Congratulations to the year 11 students who are working so hard to improving their grades in their past paper practice.**

Particularly Logan P and Jay C who have improved papers to reach 80/80 this week. Revision sessions are being really well attended but we have room for more. Bring a paper or topic and we will help you.

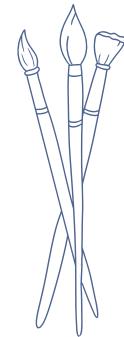
We are looking forward to celebrating our **4th annual Pi day, 14<sup>th</sup> March**. As this is a Saturday, we will start to celebrate all things circular from **13<sup>th</sup> March**. Students can expect lessons to have a "rounder feel" across the day. Activities will be set up at lunch time and break for students to try.

We will be asking for a **small cash donation to enter any competitions on the day ( 50p maximum)** with all proceeds being donated to NARS ( Norfolk Accident Response Service) who kindly brought a car to one of our events and spent a couple of hours allowing students to question them and look in the vehicle, as well as press the siren buttons.



**Year 9 students** have been participating in the **Bronze arts award** over the past year. The Arts Award develops young people's artistic abilities alongside their research and communication skills. This level involves the students in the arts as creators and audience members and encourages them to take their first steps towards leadership by sharing their learning with others.

Students have visited the Sainsbury centre gallery, sketching and photographing from the collection. They have taught year 6 students an art skill of their choice including drawing, sculpture and book illustration. At the afterschool club they have worked on their chosen art skill to create a portfolio of work.



**All students passed and received their certificates this week.**  
**Congratulations to them all.**



## Mrs Hogg

I had the pleasure of taking 35 year 11 art students to the Sainsbury centre as part of their exam preparation. Students worked with 2 artists and were challenged to find connections relevant to their exam themes, drawing, sculpting, and responding to the art they viewed. This has helped them make a strong start to their sketchbook work with individual and creative ideas.

Sadly, I cannot share any art work they produced, as it is exam work, but you will be able to come and see their work in June at our annual GCSE art exhibition.



## PE - Norfolk Indoor Cricket Championships

### Mr White

The Y8 cricketers travelled to UEA Sportspark on the 27<sup>th</sup> January for the qualifying round of the Norfolk Indoor Championships. Even though Litcham do not have the facility to practice, they equipped themselves superbly in a fast and furious tournament. The 3rd place finish did not reflect the excellent play.

Only losing to the eventual winners by one run!

Well done Freddie K, George G, Will T, Miles P, Evie R, Freddie R, Oscar M!

Litcham	165/1	<b>Lost to</b>	Framingham	166/2
Litcham	167/4	<b>Beat</b>	Harleston	158/2
Litcham	176/0	<b>Lost To</b>	Hethersett	184/1

## Website Links

Our website includes lots of information, click on the links below:

- [Litcham Secondary Phase](#)
- [Litcham Key Dates](#)
- [Clubs & Activities](#)
- [Useful Links & Downloads - Parents / Carers](#)

## Prom

### Miss Medford & Miss Hunt

#### Year 11 Prom

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Fakenham Racecourse, arrivals from 7pm for a 7:30/45 start, end 11:30pm.**



Well done to everyone who raised money from the Yr 11 sponsored walk ... you have managed to raise £805 so far! Amazing. Any more walkers who would like to raise money for your prom, please see me. Thank you to parents and carers who have supported the Year 11s and their prom; it really means a lot!

Any business donations and alternative donations for our raffle that is taking place on the School Production nights (11th, 12th & 13th March), would be gratefully received.

**Please remember, Prom tickets are available to purchase through Arbor now!**

Our Pre Loved Prom shop is also up and running with some dapper suits, brand new shoes and much more. If there is anything you are looking for, please speak to Miss Medford.

Any concerns regarding cost of tickets, attire or anything prom related, please don't hesitate to contact: [rmedford@litchamschool.org.uk](mailto:rmedford@litchamschool.org.uk).



## Film Club - Library

Mrs Pepper

Every Thursday, the library has been buzzing with our Film Lunch Club for all students. The club focuses on films based on literature, giving students a chance to explore how stories change from page to screen and how they have been adapted with artistic licence.

The students have behaved exceptionally well, following library expectations, showing respect to both the space, each other and engaging positively with the films. There is real enthusiasm for continuing the Film Lunch Club, and everyone is looking forward to watching and discussing many more film adaptations in the weeks ahead.

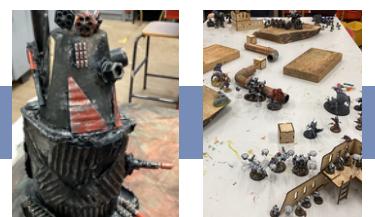
The Library will introduce two new clubs starting next half term, including The Carnegie Awards 2026 & Pearson's 'This is Lit'. Both of these book clubs will bring a real sense of energy and variety to the library, each offering something different for students. With both of these clubs we get the opportunity as the reader to review books and have our voices heard.

## Club Reminders

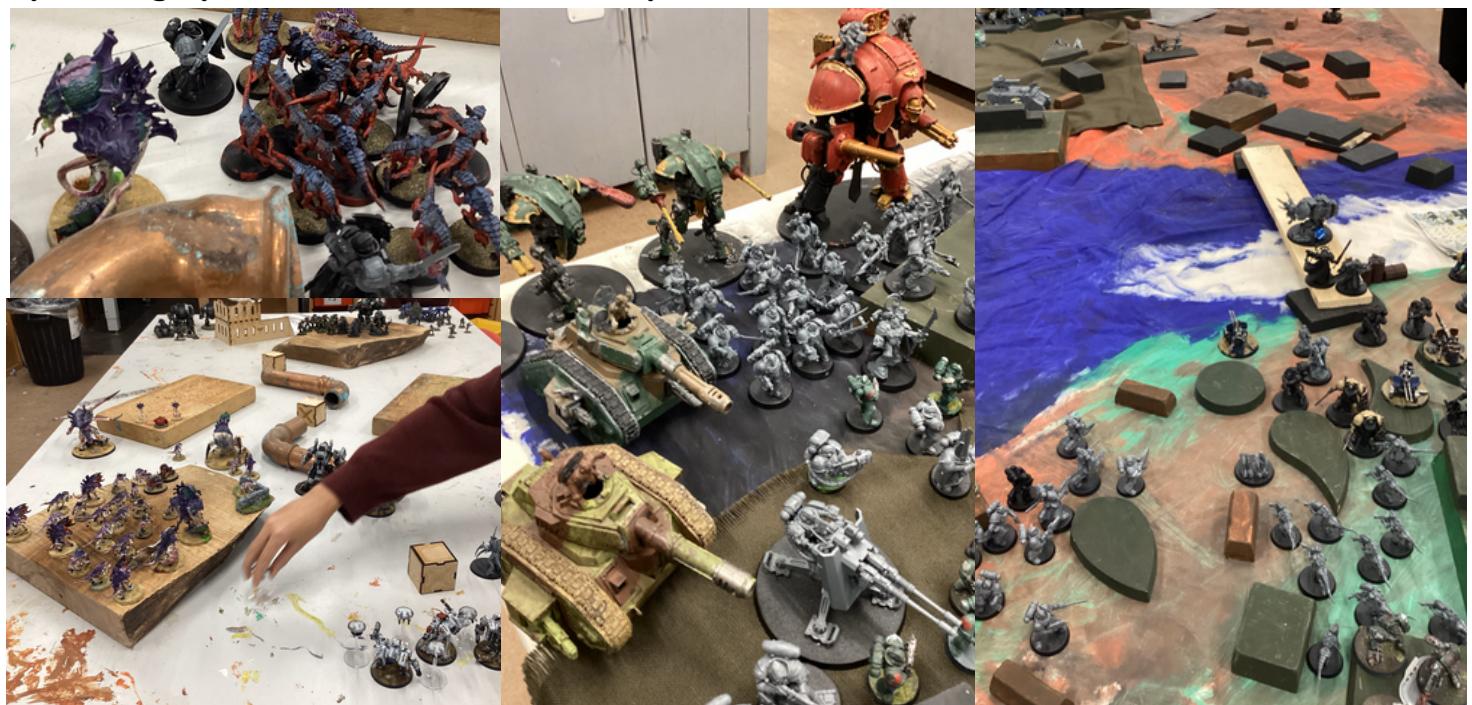
- Maths - Tuesday Lunchtimes 15 minute maths on the published topic
- PE - Wednesday Lunchtimes for students participating
- Careers - Wednesday Lunchtimes in the library computer room with Mrs Ladds
- Library - Thursday Lunchtimes for Film Club
- Warhammer - Friday lunchtimes, after school sessions once a half term.

# Warhammer Club - After School

## Mr Wolsey



Two four player battles, one on each big table at Warhammer Club. One area was set up with a battle mat designed to look like a mountainous landscape, complete with a river and a bridge crossing over it, and the other with old copper pipes to look like a steam punk industrial landscape. Lots of great dice rolling including a dreadnaught that survived about 30 hits in a row without a scratch. We also made a debut of our new laser cut forts designed by the highly talented team & Mr Wolsey.



## Maths - Problem of the week is back!

### Answers to Miss Fisher

Here is your problem of the week

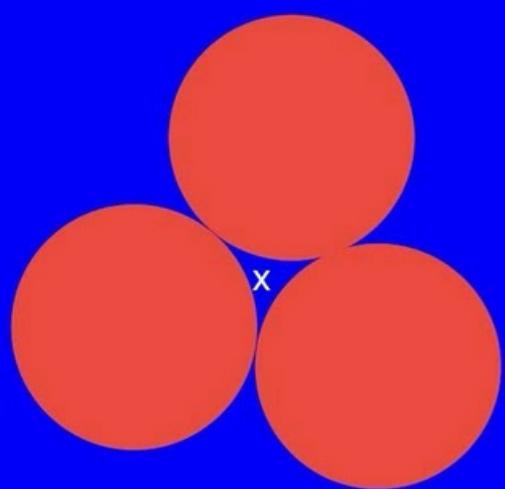


**Answers can be brought to Miss Fisher in room 22.**

Correct answers will be given a raffle ticket and entered in the prize draw!

Parents and Carers, you can have a go too!

The radii of each of the three circles is 7.



What is the area of x?

# Science

## Mr Kendrick - Eriksen

### International Chemistry Quiz – hosted by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute

Open to all year 8 students with limited spaces available.

Test your knowledge against students from more than 40 countries around the world in this Global test of chemistry knowledge.

If you are interested in taking part in this exciting opportunity, please see Mrs Elkins for more details.

### Science Homework

Science homework is set every Monday week A and is due every Friday week B using Seneca Learning. Students make their own accounts and if they forget their passwords, they will need to reset it themselves using the 'forgot password' link on the login page.

Parents are able to make accounts as well so you can monitor what is being set and how much time is being spent completing the work, click the link below:

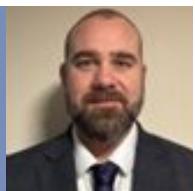
[How to connect my parent account to my child's account? | Seneca Learning Help Centre](#)

"Looking at static electricity with year 11s produced some pretty hair-raising results!" Oliver S pictured



## Key School Dates

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Year 11 Mock GCSEs
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Year 10 Parents Evening
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Year 11 Mock MFL Oral exams
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Year 9 Future Careers Expedition
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March (12.15pm onwards) - Y11 Fakenham Interviews
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Production Evening Performances
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March (1.30pm – 3.15pm) - Y11 Dereham Interviews
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March (9am – 3.15pm) - Y11 Dereham Interviews
- 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> March - Prom Raffle
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March (9am – 11.45am) - Y11 Dereham Interviews
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Pi Day
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Year 11 Spoken Endorsement
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - GCSE Music Performance
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Bake Sale
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Y11 Drama Practical Exams



It has been a positive start to the Spring Term, and I continue to be proud of the way our students conduct themselves around the school each day. Our Year 9 students represented Litcham superbly during the careers networking morning in January. Visitors were extremely impressed by their maturity, confidence and professionalism, as was I.

### Year 11

Year 11 students are continuing to work hard in preparation for their GCSEs, with targeted support and interventions taking place during tutor time. We know this can be a demanding time, and it is natural to feel some pressure or nerves as exams approach. Our message to Year 11 is simple: you are capable, you are supported, and the effort you put into revision really matters. Please speak to staff if you feel you need extra help and guidance. We want to ensure every student feels confident, prepared and able to succeed. Stay focused, keep going, and well done for what you have accomplished so far.

### Year 10

Year 10 students continue to take responsibility for organising their work experience placements ready for the summer term. This is an important opportunity to develop confidence, independence and real-world skills, and we are pleased with the positive way students are engaging with the process. Please see Miss Byford & Mrs Pepper if you require any assistance.

Finally, a huge thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support in maintaining high standards of uniform and reinforcing our mobile phone and devices policy. Your support plays an important role in helping us maintain a calm, purposeful environment where every child can succeed.

### Social Media Links

Litcham School has social media! Why not connect with us and see everything the students are getting up to! You can find us on the below platforms and click the link:

- Facebook - [@LitchamSchool](https://www.facebook.com/LitchamSchool)
- Instagram - [@Litcham.School](https://www.instagram.com/litcham.school/)

Anything written bold and underlined in our newsletter is a link to a website or media platform with more information.

# LITCHAM SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2026

# TIMEFRAME



**A musical comedy about time travel**

**Wednesday 11th, Tuesday 12th & Friday  
13th March**

**Litcham School Hall**

**Tickets available on Arbor after half term**