



Larches News December 2020



Welcome to the latest edition of our Larches newsletter. As you can see from the articles it has been an interesting and busy term. We have all adapted to the new Government guidance and I am sure you will join me in thanking staff & pupils for their positive approaches and hard work.

Our summer building programme has been a success with pupils now benefiting from improved specialist rooms in Science, Food Tech & Careers.

We say goodbye to Matt Nuttall this term and wish him all the very best for his new career.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas & New Year.

Please stay safe & well and we will welcome pupils back on January 4th 2021.



GCSE Summer Examinations

Exams are on schedule for the summer of 2021. We will keep you informed of further details as they are made available

We will be putting updates on our school website in due course.

School Council

Introducing Leonie, a representative of the School Council, who, alongside Ellie, Leah and Kristian, have been ensuring pupils have a voice within the school. The first task of the council was to provide feedback on school lunches and update the menu and this work is ongoing.

Leonie was also involved in interviewing applicants for the recent Pupil Support role. She devised questions and her own scoring system focusing on the qualities and skills pupils feel are needed to support them within school. Leonie displayed great maturity and professionalism in her interviewing style and put applicants through their paces. Mr Liam Toolan was successful and joins Larches family in January.

Shoebox Appeal

As a school, we took part in the charity shoebox appeal this year organised by 'Boxes of Hope' in Cumbria. Each form compiled a box full of toys and gifts for a less fortunate child in Romania. The charity will deliver them during the last week of term. Thank you everyone who contributed to this.





Attendance Matters



A big Well Done and Congratulations to all of our students in the following registration forms 11A, 10H and KS3H. Students in these forms have achieved the best overall attendance and punctuality. The Attendance trophy and certificates have been handed out and reward points have been added.

Well Done keep it up !



NEW ADDITION TO THE LARCHES FAMILY



Hi, I am Darren Magill and I am the new Physical Education Teacher at Larches High School.

I graduated from Edgehill University in 2018 where I gained outstanding teacher status. Since University, I have worked with many teaching agencies across the North West and worked in some outstanding Ofsted rated secondary schools. I am pleased to now be joining Larches High School.

In September 2020, Larches High school created an indoor gym facility to further enhance the PE Curriculum and offer an opportunity for pupils to use both within lesson and after school. The small gym consists of a spinning bike, 2 rowing machines, 2 bikes, a teaching corner, and area for floor based activities. The long-term goal is to enhance the gym facility in both size and equipment to give the pupils the best possible opportunity to improve their health and academic learning.

As we are under restrictions due to the pandemic and are following guidelines set by each sporting governing body, the pupils of Larches have been a credit in understanding what we can offer in PE in terms of practical activities. Since September pupils have developed their knowledge and practical performance in; Badminton, Table Tennis, Gym based activities, Handball and Hockey.





Summer Projects



During the summer our building work progressed and we now have newly refurbished Careers and Science rooms.

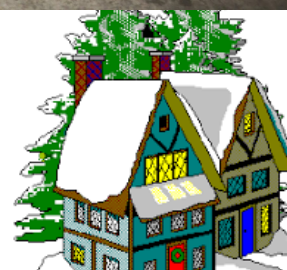


We also had a brand new Food Technology room, which is fantastic. As you can see our students love creating dishes in it!



KS3 HAVE BEEN GETTING QUIZZICAL!

Since the beginning of October, the four tutor groups in KS3 have been taking part in a quiz league. Each form has set the questions twice and conducted the quiz via Teams from Mrs Mitchell's office. The league table points are close, with all to play for when the last quiz is delivered this Wednesday. Who will be crowned champions?



What's happening in the Art Department?

The Art Department have been very busy since September. We started off with all students having the opportunity to make their own fabric masks which really showed off some fantastic textiles making skills. Next, both KS3 and KS4 explored shoe designs; KS3 created Andy Warhol style prints and KS4 have been designing their own themed trainers. Of course, we didn't forget Halloween and KS3 have also managed to fit in a seasonal light up lantern project.



3d Design

Year 10 students have started their 2nd design and make project "cutaway" and have been working hard researching different artists and designers. Michael has used Micaela Lattanzio for inspiration when planning his Art Gallery Piece. We cannot wait to see the results!



Connor has not been at Larches High School long, but he has already started making his 2nd product - a deck of playing cards. Connor's ideas fit well with his project theme and he has enjoyed laser cutting a mix of materials including balsa wood. He just needs to make a presentation box and take it home in time for Christmas.



Careers



Careers provision this year will be very different due to the current restrictions. We will be holding Apprenticeship Week and Careers Week as normal in February and March respectively. There will be more virtual content this year and we have been working with our local Enterprise Hub to make it as meaningful as possible. There will be opportunities for live presentations and interactive sessions with local employers.

In the New Year we will begin a longer-term partnership with local construction firm Willmott Dixon. We are hopeful that our current Year 11 pupils will also benefit from the opportunity to visit the construction site as well as them delivering programmes in school to our pupils who are interested in careers in that sector.

Before the lockdown in March we were working with Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council to develop links between Larches High School and the local authority. Over the next year we will be working together to facilitate workplace visits and work experience opportunities.

We would like to congratulate all our Year 11 pupils who have submitted their applications to college, some have already been interviewed. If pupils are looking for apprenticeships they also need to apply to college and start looking for an employer who can offer them an apprenticeship.

If you need any support please contact Sharon Settle via email

s.settle@larches.lancs.sch.uk





Building Resilience Parenting Programme



We are very excited to be able to offer parents and carers the opportunity to attend the Building Resilience Parenting Programme. This will be starting in the New Year.

The Parenting Programme will look at different topics over a 6 week period where parents/carers can attend for 2 hours and be supported in their parenting role.

The programme will provide parents/carers with lots of tips, strategies and techniques that will help improve overall communication, behaviour management and better understanding of your teen.

We are also going to be running Parental engagement sessions once a month where parents/carers will be invited in to school to take part with their teen on lots of fun and curriculum linked activities. Further details will be available in the New Year.

If you would like any further information, please contact Christina Mclean, Attendance & Family Support Manager or Jodie Bain, Family Support Officer.

A Good Read

In the English Curriculum this term, KS3 have been studying 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman as part of Black History Month. In KS4, we have been studying 'Lord of the Flies' and 'A Christmas Carol' as part of the English Literature GCSE course. In both KS3 and KS4, there have been some excellent pieces of written work produced over the term, especially when they studied Gothic Horror.

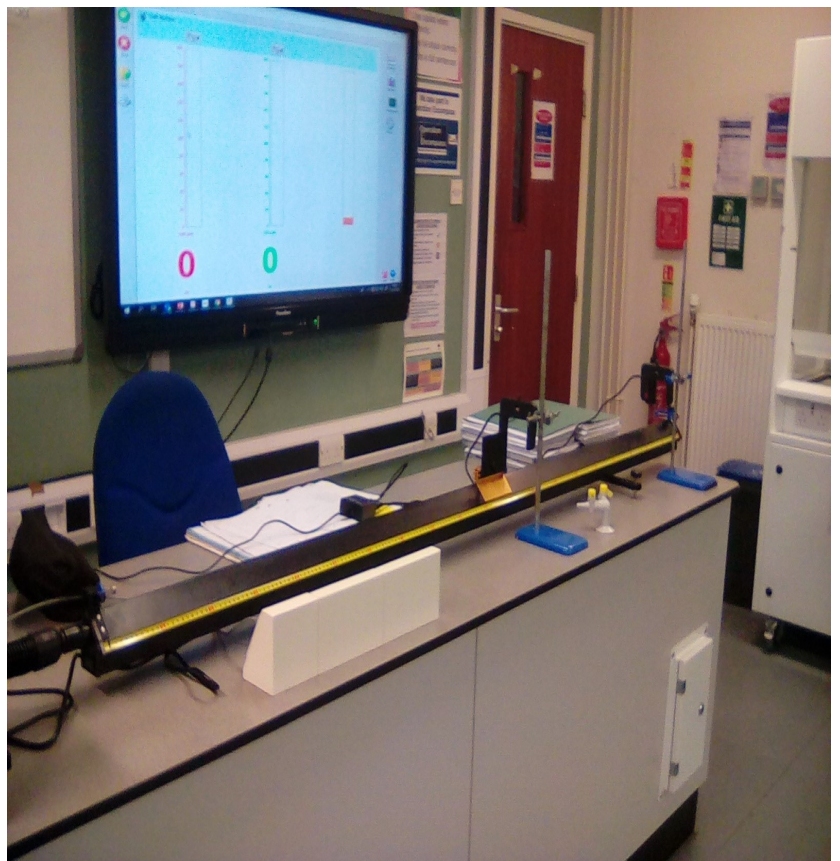
The Beauty of Mathematics

Both KS3 and Year 10 maths students follow the same scheme of work which is differentiated according to age and ability. This term, the students have covered parts of all four strands of mathematics – Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Data Handling. Topics have included: calculations and accuracy, integers, powers and roots; fractions, decimals and percentages; substitution, shapes, and displaying and interpreting data. All Year 11 maths students are following the Edexcel scheme of work for the GCSE exams. We aim to develop their learning further through re-evaluation of the core topics and the work is differentiated according to ability. This term, the students have completed two progress assessments which cover four strands of maths – Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Data Handling. Topics have included: fraction problems, solving equations, probability, inequalities and Pythagoras' Theorem. Some pupils will also have the opportunity to gain an extra maths Functional skills qualification. We look forward to delivering new topics next year, and challenging young minds at Larches, to appreciate the beauty of mathematics.

Science – Autumn term

It has been a busy term in the Science labs for students and staff alike. We have made good use of our new equipment that was secured during the last summer term; microscopes for use with all students to observe detailed cell structure, electronic water baths as well as the linear air track (pictured) in order to investigate the laws of one certain Mr Newton!

We are looking forward to securing a new ripple tank for investigating wave formation as well as hopefully developing some outdoor areas from a conservation perspective...providing the weather improves!





Our KS3 and KS4 pupils are enjoying using our schools new kitchen and they have produced some lovely dishes that they are proud of.

Food for Thought!

We have been delivering cooking at home parcels, to our school families and included some Christmas treats for them to enjoy! We will continue to encourage our pupils to keep up the good work in 2021.



Easy One Pot Roasted Chicken Dinner

This Easy One Pot Roasted Chicken Dinner recipe is **SO** easy to make, and it's the perfect family meal with all the fixings and gravy, made in only one pan and it only takes an hour to prep & cook!

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 6 large bone-in skin-on chicken thighs or chicken drumsticks
- a pinch or two of salt and pepper (for seasoning the chicken)
- 3 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh or dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh or dried rosemary
- a pinch or two of salt and pepper
- 2/3 cup good quality white wine
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 8 small russet or white potatoes (or 6 medium), washed and each chopped into 4-8 pieces
- 6 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
- fresh thyme and rosemary for garnish, if desired

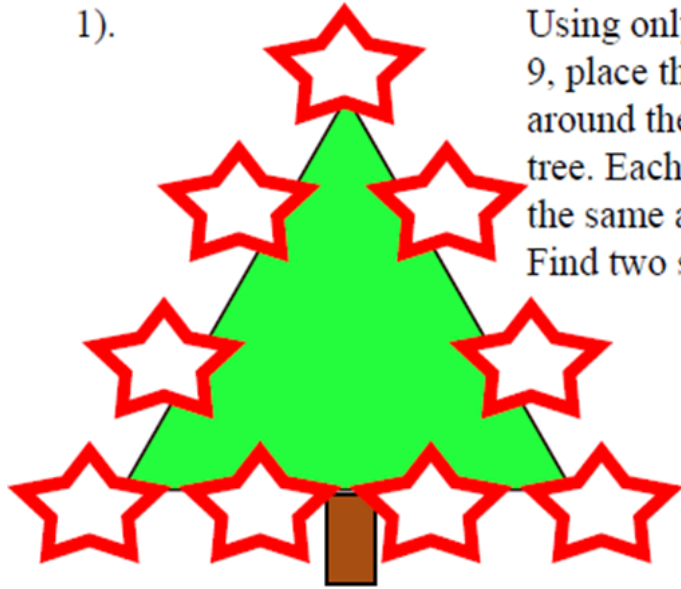
Instructions

Preheat your oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat a very large oven-safe pan over medium-high heat on the stove top and add the olive oil. Brown the chicken pieces in the pan on all sides, until the outside has reached a nice golden brown. Remove the chicken pieces from the pan and set them aside on a plate. Add the potatoes and carrots to the pan with the chicken liquid and allow the vegetables to brown slightly in the liquid on all sides for about 5-7 mins. Remove the vegetables to a plate and set aside once they've caramelized slightly. Turn the heat to medium. Add the flour to the liquid left in the pan and whisk until the flour is absorbed. Whisk in the thyme, rosemary and salt and pepper and continue to toast the flour for about one more minute, whisking constantly. Slowly add the wine and whisk as you add it to prevent lumps. Add the chicken stock slowly, whisking as you add it to break up any lumps that form. Let the sauce bubble away, whisking gently as it cooks for about 4 minutes. Add the potatoes and carrots back into the pan, nestling them into the sauce until they're submerged. Add the chicken pieces into the sauce as well, nestling them into the sauce and vegetables. Cover the pan with the lid and roast for about 35-40 minutes at 325 degrees Fahrenheit or until the chicken is cooked through to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit (74 Celsius) and the potatoes are tender. Remove the pan from the oven when the chicken is cooked through and allow it to rest, covered, for about 5 minutes before serving.

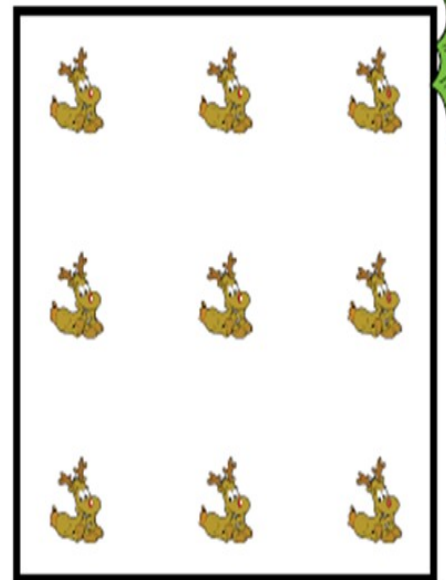


Mathematical Christmas Puzzles

1).

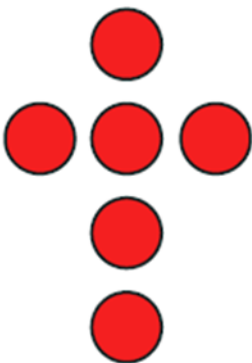


Using only the digits 1 to 9, place them in the stars around the Christmas tree. Each side must total the same amount. Find two solutions. 2).



Santa needs to create a pen for **each** reindeer. Draw two **squares** to create the pens.

3).

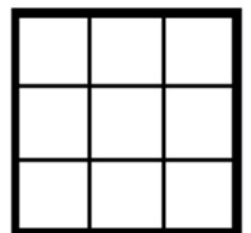


Rudolph creates a Christmas cross for Santa out of coins. Show Rudolph how you can move 1 coin and have a cross with 4 coins in each row.



4).

Santa looks out of his window at Rudolph. He notices the squares in the window.



How many different squares are there in the window?

They don't have to be the same size!



MIND

0300 123 3393

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT

0808 8081677

VICTIM SUPPORT

0808 1689111

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC
ABUSE HELPLINE**

0808 2000 247

Samaritans

116 123

You

are never

alone

**ACTION
FOR ELDER
ABUSE**

**0800
0699784**

RESPECT— MENS ADVICE

0808 8010327

CHILDLINE

0800 1111

COVID SYMPTOMS

High Temperature
Continuous Cough
Loss of change in smell or taste

Please contact Mrs Mitchell on her mobile number 07967 630212 up until the 23rd December 2020 and after 2nd January 2021 if your child develops any symptoms.