



Countesthorpe Leysland  
Community College

# Magazine



## NEW DISCOVERIES

Our students learn new things in  
extra curricular activities

**Cambodia Expedition**  
*CLCC Students see the world*

**Year 7 Team Building**  
*Working together to make friends*

**Plus Much More!**



# WELCOME

**A** Welcome to the first edition of our College Magazine for this year. We've had a really positive start to the year with many great events that our students have taken part in.

Our focus for this year is about 'making a positive difference' and we are encouraging all our students take part in events which will help others. Through our core values of Respect, Resilience and Success we are offering students opportunities to develop their skills. We have this year created a new Student Leadership Team led by our recently appointed Head Boy and Head Girl who you can read on page 8.

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***"Keeping our students healthy, both physically and mentally is key to success"***

One of the other areas we want to focus on is shining a spotlight on mental health. We are putting in place a team of student Mental Health Ambassadors and are working on a range of strategies for all years but in particular students in years 11,12 and 13 as they prepare for their exams. We are sharing ways of our students knowing how to stay healthy in all areas of their lives and adopt a positive and balanced approach to their studies.

Thank you for all your support and I hope you enjoy reading about the wide range of activities and events our students have been involved in.

*C.R. Aitchison*

Mrs C. Aitchison  
Principal

*Our Student do Amazing things*



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# YEAR 13 BIOLOGY RESIDENTIAL



## Mind to be Kind

I saw an article on social media, it was a plea from the mother of Rhys Williams. He was a 13 year old boy who has a very severe medical skin condition, meaning he doesn't go to school, is wheelchair bound and his fingers have fused together. He is unable to play outside with friends, go on holiday, attend birthday parties or even go shopping. He has to be fed through a tube, as eating solid food can cause his mouth to blister.

Recently Rhys has been feeling very sad and his condition has been getting him down, so his mum was appealing for people to send him a birthday card, as it would cheer him up and encourage him to carry on.

Rhys was feeling very lonely and isolated due to his condition. His birthday was the 21st September.

When I saw this plea, I thought of our students, and how we all take things for granted, like eating our favourite foods, going out to see friends, socialising at school and going to parties with family and friends. I thought it would be a lovely idea, as a mind to be kind, that some of our students sent Rhys a birthday card.

It was his 14th birthday, on September 21st, so I bought two cards and went into some Year 7 and 8 tutor groups and spoke to them about Rhys and his condition.

I have to say the students thought it was brilliant idea and they couldn't wait to sign his card. Everyone who has signed the card has received a merit, for a mind to be kind

Mrs. S. Miller  
Cover Supervisor



In early September Year 13 Biology students travelled to Norfolk for a 3 day residential. While on the residential students completed 3 of their ecology required practicals where they will go towards their Biology Assessments. These practical's included visiting West Runton beach and completed a transect from sea to shore. They also analysed a local stream with kick sampling looking for living indicators of the health of the water.

As well as the excellent learning experience the students had, students also participated in the activities the centre offered including bouldering, laser and a blindfold obstacle course. The residential was a huge success and the department can't wait to visit again next year.

Mr. D. Finn  
Science Department

# EXPEDITION TO CAMBODIA

For the past two years, students from the College have been fund-raising to take part in the Camps International Cambodia Expedition. The trip lasted for one month and saw students involved in community, environmental and educational projects and they also learnt how to scuba dive and worked towards their PADI Open Water Diving Certificate. We kept a blog whilst we are away which is still available at [tiny.cc/Cambodia2019](http://tiny.cc/Cambodia2019) and have just launched our next expedition – Borneo 2021 for students currently in Years 9 – 12.

What follows are extracts and photos from the blog.

## Thursday 25th July 2019

Phnom Penh: The group started early and were shown around the ornate Royal Palace buildings before heading across town to the thought provoking S21 Museum. This was formerly a High School and used by the Khmer Rouge as a prison and torture facility. School classrooms now house exhibits of photographs, torture instruments and human remains. The buildings have been preserved much as they were found in 1979 with harrowing survivor testimony and explanation delivered through an audio tour. The facility is enclosed by thick barbed wire fences and provided a sad contrast to the building's former use. As we would expect, the students fully engaged with the museum where some difficult themes were explored.



After lunch we travelled to the Killing Fields where those who had been at S21 were murdered and buried in over 100 mass graves. 17,000 people were estimated to have been killed there between 1975 and 1979 and a 17 storey tower of skulls and large bones is the permanent memorial to those who suffered there. Once again, an audio tour allowed students to work through the different museum areas at their own pace. Recent rain had washed more soil away revealing clothing and bone fragments on the site which was difficult to look at.

Lighter moments did occur during the day however. Resident food test pilot Harry voluntarily ate a chicken's foot and we all tried a local dessert that bounced when dropped. An evening meal in an Italian restaurant called the Godfather provided a welcome break from the rice!

## Saturday-Sunday 27th-28th July 2019



Koh Rong Sanloem (dive island off the coast of Cambodia): Saturday was a very intensive day for the students with confined water dives taking place off Saracen Beach in the shallows. In glorious sunshine and a very warm sea, small groups, each with an instructor, first proved they could swim 200 metres and tread water for 10 minutes then learnt how to use all the equipment. This included, scarily, clearing a flooded mask, using a buddy's spare air supply and completing simulated emergency ascents. Activities lasted from 9 until 5 with a short break for lunch.

Sunday allowed us to start putting these skills into practice. We all boarded Dive Shop 1, the imaginatively named Dive Shop Cambodia boat and travelled to Vietnamese Bay where we completed more skills and went deeper. Down to 10 metres or more for about 50 minutes without returning to the surface. Students thoroughly enjoyed scuba diving next to the coral reef where we saw a wide array of fish and aquatic life. We also saw some coral reef regeneration schemes in action and learnt how to leave and enter the boat safely.

We're staying on Sunset Beach and this evening it lived up to the name. Check out the photo. No Instagram filter needed! Evenings here are refreshingly quiet. Largely because there's no phone signal, no WiFi and only a handful of electric sockets to charge stuff that will make noise. There are a handful of relaxed beach bars along the sand that students have been to after their evening meal. The friendly owners, mostly Europeans after a quiet life, welcome the students each evening for sugary drinks and mocktails. So exhausted, they've largely put themselves to bed at about 9.30pm!

## Friday 2nd August 2019

Camp Beng Melea, Siem Reap: The group continued making large water pots at Camp Beng Melea on Friday morning but finished at 10 o'clock so they could plan for the afternoon. An afternoon to be spent teaching English in a small two room classroom, built by Camps International volunteers in previous years.

The group was split into two and had to plan two lessons. They were given a brief by the teachers and were responsible for teaching topics of direction, telling the time and adverbs. Each lesson lasted one hour and the lessons were delivered and received with enthusiasm. Despite a chaotic approach to the Cambodian school - students seem to come and go as they please, chickens run in and out of the room at will; they demonstrated a commitment to the activity that sometimes wasn't the case when they were digging a hole for a community toilet in the blazing sun.



There are some excellent photos of all the students leading the teaching and standing at the blackboard. Charlie excelled when she led on the adverbs (something few wanted to take on with the most advanced students). Seb and Joe showed real confidence when leading on vocabulary 'in the house' whilst Harry hid his nerves and the students loved his work on direction which included much movement to demonstrate up, down, left, right and turn around. Exhausted, some students enjoyed the evening disco and camp fire or rested in hammocks.

## Saturday 3rd August 2019

Camp Beng Melea, Siem Reap This morning the group took part in a community reforestation project. We travelled by minibus past the spectacular Beng Melea temple with imposing snake carvings guarding the entrance and on to a primary school which was the meeting point for hundreds of other volunteers.

Coaches brought people in from Siem Reap University and local school children along with a number of men in military uniform and locals. A loud PA system blasted out something incomprehensible in Cambodian whilst the volunteers dug holes and planted tree saplings. The aim was to plant 10,000 in one day which was quickly achieved. After an action packed lunch where a gecko was found running around inside the girls' mosquito net the group had an R&R afternoon. Many students took naps and we did a trip to the coffee shop where there's free WiFi. You could hear a pin drop as the students silently sipped their drinks and gazed at their phones.

Mosquito net excitement didn't end in the evening either as a scorpion was then found in the girls' area. A fearless teacher used a very British up turned cup and piece of paper approach to eject the beast.

## Friday 9th August 2019

The big day. Angkor Wat and the 'Tomb Raider' temple.

We left the hotel at 8am to collect our tickets from the out of town tourism centre in Siem Reap. It's like Alton Towers: hundreds of coaches and thousands of people queuing at 50 cashier windows. Each visitor's face is photographed and then printed on their ticket.

We jumped back on the coach and headed to Angkor Wat, tickets in hand. On arrival we crossed the moat into the jewel in Cambodia's crown and major draw for tourists from across the world but particularly China. Our guide was excellent taking us through the temple site and sharing facts and explaining the structure including how his father when serving in the military had been there during the civil war. He could point out bullet holes and areas damaged by the Khmer Rouge. He did a great job keeping us to quieter parts in a busy summer's day for the site. Students took lots of photographs and I've just seen a video of one child being chased by a monkey whilst his friends filmed it. They like to steal phones and run to the top of a tree (the monkeys). Apparently it happens all the time and students were warned to keep a tight grip on their belongings!



After lunch we went to two more of the most famous temples to explore. We saw the smiling Buddha faces and learnt about the kings who had the temples built 800 years ago. Much restoration work is taking place. Time, tourists and a civil war have taken their toll. The overgrown 'Tomb Raider' temple where Angelina Jolie filmed was particularly popular with students who queued to get a picture which is in one of the iconic scenes.

This was a really special way to spend our penultimate day in Cambodia. The evening was spent at a gala dinner with international buffet and traditional Cambodian dancing.

My name is Kilian Freeborn and I am the Head Boy this year. I am currently in Year 13 starting my second year of A-levels, where I have chosen to study History, Psychology and English Literature. However, a few weeks ago I decided to add to my already busy schedule and take on the role of Head Boy.

I applied for the role of Head Boy because student leadership is something I have always been involved in, from year 7-9 I was on the student council for my tutor group, taking part in several discussions about how to improve the school while putting across my own ideas. I then became head of Lawrence house in Year 11. This role gave me a lot more responsibility as it involved taking part in events like the food drive. As Head Boy I would have had the opportunity to transcend what I had done before, gaining a lot more responsibility to make big changes to aid in enhancing the student experience. While any changes I make are unlikely to affect me directly as I am leaving at the end of the year, it is important to me that these changes are made for the students in the years below who will continue to attend this school even after I have left.

As Head Boy there are several roles I must fulfill, this includes ensuring that student voice plays an important part in the development of this college. This entails making sure that each and every student has a voice in the school, so changes can be made to better their experience. My role also includes quite a few presentations in front of students and parents, I will admit that before becoming Head Boy, the idea of speaking in front of people was quite a daunting one, however, being given the opportunity to have a voice within the school has improved my confidence, and allowed me to achieve things I never thought possible.

By the end of the year, the student leadership team and I hope to achieve many things. We would like to encourage a better recycling policy, increase student wellbeing, and improve the school reward system for all students. I personally am working on the reward system, however, these rewards are not just for me so if any of you have any ideas that you think will better rewards, feel free to contact me.

During this first half term of school leadership team and I have already done quite a few things. Many of us have taken part in open evenings, some at school and others at Thomas Estley and Brockington. This has allowed us to talk to parents and other students about our school and hopefully attract them to the idea of coming to CLCC for their Sixth form. Furthermore, communications have started about getting more recycling bins in the school to improve our current system. Hopefully as time goes on we will be able to achieve even more, but we need your help, so I hope that you all apply for a role in student leadership in order to be involved in improving our school.



# New Head Boy & Girl 2019-2020

My name is Penelope Milner and I have the greatest honour of being the Head Girl this year at the College. Currently, I study Psychology, Geography and English Literature and I am in Year 13. The reason I wanted to apply to be in the Student Leadership Team was to give back to the College, as all of the staff have helped me throughout my school career to achieve my academic potential and they have provided me with many opportunities to grow as a person. Since Year seven, I have been an active member of the Student Council as well as Turing House Leader in Year 11 and Deputy Head Girl in Year 12. Within these roles, I have always aimed to represent the student voice and deliver in the ways students would like the school to improve. One of the ways I did this last year was by hosting a six hour Dance-a-thon to raise money for the Sixth Form area. Also, I am particularly proud of organising a blood donation campaign for the Sixth Form after donating blood myself and working with the Student Council to raise money for the new recycling bins and collect donations for the local food banks.

My role this year is to work with the Student Leadership teams and students to make the college a more positive and successful place for many years to come. In particular, I would like to set up extra-curricular sport clubs for the Sixth Formers to improve their physical fitness and mental well-being. As well as this, I shall be working with the Prom Committee to plan the Year 13 prom and assist the other members of the Student Leadership in their roles. The overall aims for our team this year are to make the school more sustainable by getting recycling bins across the two sites, establishing an improved rewards system and developing ways to improve students' mental health.

So far, my main achievements this year have been taking part in the whole school assemblies to launch the leadership roles and delivering a speech at the Year 7 Open Evening, which has benefitted my public speaking skills. As well as this, I represented the school at Sixth Form Open days at Thomas Estley Community College and Brockington College to inform potential Year 12 students about the CLCC Sixth Form experience. In addition, I have arranged weekly Council meetings during which the other Student Leadership members and myself have set out what our roles and responsibilities will be for the year.

If you have any queries or wish to be involved with any college projects, please contact me.

# OPEN EVENING



## Year 7 Team Building

On the 19th and 20th of September, Year 7 went on an exciting adventure to build their teamworking skills through a variety of challenges that could only be completed in a team using co-operation.

One of the exciting activities was the crane where your goal was to make a human crane and get the cup off the mat without touching the mat. There were four activities in total. There were groups of 24 that were then split into teams of 6. The 'knee height of the ground' challenge was where you had 6 planks of wood and some rope – the goal was to get your whole team knee high off the ground. It took a while but eventually all the teams managed it.

'The walker' was really fun as you and your team need to work in unison to move. One team did not move an inch. After an incredible day of fun, Year 7 got on the bus and travelled back to school, ready to go home and rest! We can't wait for the next school trip.

Kayla  
Year 7



We were delighted to welcome so many potential students and their families to our open evening on 19th September. Our awesome student helpers were pleased to show off what they most enjoy at CLCC and staff had fun too.

Mrs K. Russell  
Assistant Principal

# YEAR 11 DRAMA TRIP



Year 11 Drama students went to Derby Theatre on the 25th September to watch a production of 'One Man, Two Guvnor's' as preparation for their C3 exam.

The play was written for the National Theatre in 2011 and originally the main part was played by James Corden in London. We had front row seats and even ended up being part of the performance when the lead actor came to talk to the audience, one lucky student even got his autograph when he spotted her making notes.

Based on Commedia dell'arte the production featured improvisation, farce, food fights and comic interruptions with the audience. A Live band was also part of the show and we loved every minute and are already looking forward to our next theatre visit.

Mrs. L. Hall  
Head of Drama



# Year 7 take 3D Maps to a new level!

Year 7 geographers have been busy learning map skills. They were set the challenge of making 3D relief maps for homework. There have been some outstanding efforts from many students. Some even went to the length of researching the relief of Hawaii and other more exotic places in world. Many will end up being displayed on the walls of G5C, so students- come and have a look!

Special mention should go to Alessia, Oscar, Azeilia, Harry, Matilda and Tara whose work you see in the photographs.

Mr T. Kilsby  
Geography

## Top Merit Achievers

Do the right thing, in the right place at the right time. It is a simple enough idea, and it is what we expect. We made a decision that students who do this every day deserve to be recognised. Teachers award merits based on punctuality, attendance and completing quality work. Additional merits can be given at the teacher's discretion for outstanding work or effort, or showing kindness, consideration, empathy and initiative.

Students are awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for earning merits, but we thought a special "shout out" to the top merit earners in each House was in order!



**BRUNEL**  
Miriam  
222 Merit Points  
Autumn Term 1, 2019



**HAWKINS**  
Ruby  
217 Merit Points  
Summer Term 2019



**LAWRENCE**  
Jack  
197 Merit Points  
Autumn Term 1, 2019



**SPENCER**  
Ellie-Mai  
233 Merit Points  
Summer Term 2019



**TURING**  
Amelia  
262 Merit Points  
Autumn Term 1, 2019



**WILBERFORCE**  
Leilah  
249 Merit Points  
Autumn Term 1, 2019

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