

Science week off to a cracking start



Photo taken by Lady Margaret School

Science week is approaching at Lady Margaret School and to kick it off, 10 chicks eggs arrived on the 7th March. The school science week starts on Monday 14th of March, which will include many science events and quirky experiments such as maggot racing.



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Miss Burrell, a science teacher, arranged for the school to look after 10 eggs by adopting them from the *Living Eggs Organisation*, from the UK. At the start, the eggs were in an incubator, however once they hatched, they went into a brooder which is kept warm by a light that stays on all day and night. The brooder has a non-slip mat to stop the chicks from slipping as they have a large bodyweight compared to their legs.

The first three hatched on Tuesday night followed by the 4th on Wednesday morning. The rest of the eggs were soon to follow. The last one to hatch has been named 'Mark Scheme' by Mr Kane- lets hope it gets smashing grades. There is a competition to decide what the rest of the chicks will be called.



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It's hard to identify the chick's gender, however it's likely that the females will have darker feathers and the males will have lighter feathers. So far, we haven't managed to confirm our chick's gender, as they look very similar!

Usually there is only an 80% chance that all the chicks will hatch but here at Lady Margaret School, we have managed to have a 100% success rate and luckily all 10 survived, which is eggcellent!

The chicks have strict dietary requirements- they must eat food rich in nutrients and protein twice a day. They always have access to water.

Chicks from the *Living Eggs Organisation* come directly from a farm and after 10 days are sent to a farmer who wants them. Over the weekend, they have to be looked after by someone and this weekend Mrs Popat (a science teacher) is very excited to take them home for the weekend.



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Everyone, including staff, have been scrambling to see the adorable chicks- no one can get enough! There is even a live web cam on YouTube (there is a link on the school website) so even when pupils go home, they are still able to observe the chicks.

We will be so sad to see them go!



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