



Alumnae Newsletter **December 2009**

Dear Alumnae, I hope you are all well and enjoying Christmas preparations! It has been a busy autumn term at LGGs, and there is a lot to see on the website (www.lggs.lancs.sch.uk). Please have a look, and remember to update me with any of your own news, to share with others.

Old Girls Successes

Women into Science, Engineering and Construction Awards 2009 - Rebecca Robinson (left 2001) (University of Manchester Press)

Rebecca Robinson won the WISE Excellence Award for her outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to encouraging girls into science and engineering. The award was presented by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London on the 12th November 2009. Rebecca Robinson is a final year PhD student working under the supervision of Prof Hugh McCann. She is currently completing her PhD thesis on Electrophysiology for Brain Function Imaging in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Manchester.

The WISE campaign collaborates with industry and education to encourage UK girls of school age to value and pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in school or college, and to move on into related careers. Through its initiatives the WISE campaign has helped to double the percentage of female Engineering graduates from 7% in 1984 to 15% today.

‘Although this is a huge improvement I don’t believe that we are recruiting girls fast enough. According to the CEO of Engineering and Technology Board, Paul Jackson, if we continue to progress at this rate it will take 278 years to establish equality! We need to show girls that engineering and science is fun and rewarding. If you study engineering or science there is almost an infinite number of career choices. Not only is engineering someone who works with aircraft or on computer games but engineering can be seen as a caring profession, I’m working on medical device that has the potential to change all of our lives for the better.’

Rebecca has been a key ambassador within Widening Participation at the university and has been heavily involved in the ‘hands on’ activities, such as Girls in Aerospace, Physics Tricks, Maths Squad, Ice-Cream Fun, and College Open Days amongst many others. The aim of these events is to raise awareness of, and aspiration to, higher education amongst individuals from underrepresented groups, the university aims to encourage applications from the most gifted and talented individuals regardless of geography, school, socio-economic status or ethnic grouping.

Rebecca has also been a student co-ordinator for WiSET (women in engineering, science and technology) since 2006. This is aimed at supporting all women in the university that are in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Science from undergraduates to professors. WiSET aims to promote female graduates to develop careers in STEM. Rebecca has organised external and internal speakers to come and share their experiences and offer advice, she has provided a series of networking opportunities to encourage interdisciplinary understanding as well as skill based workshops and industrial visits.

This is a national award given to a women who are early in their careers and have helped to raise awareness of science and engineering to girls and young women. ‘I feel very honoured to have won this award; it was a privilege to meet HRH the Royal Princess and all the other finalists. I have been promoting science and engineering for the past 3 years with the help of the Widening Participation team and WiSET. However my job is not done; there are still only 7% of professional engineers that are women (statistics taken from 2008 survey - www.ukrc4setwomen.org/html/researchand-statistics/), this doesn’t have to be a male dominated world – girls can do it too’

CONGRATULATIONS REBECCA!

School Awards

International News

LGGS has been awarded the prestigious International Schools Award for the fourth time. Mrs Hilary Hopwood our International Coordinator was presented with the award at a special ceremony in London. We are one out of only 16 schools to receive this award for the fourth time.

An Appeal from the Heads of Sixth Form

Increasingly, universities are interviewing our students before offering them places. Places at university are becoming more competitive than ever before. We offer our students who are likely to be interviewed a short training programme followed by a mock interview. To carry out these interviews we rely on the voluntary commitment of professionals across a wide range of fields. The mock interviews are normally scheduled for November prior to universities calling for interview from December onwards. We would very much like to increase our list of contacts for this vital work. The areas we are particularly looking for are English, Law, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Midwifery, Art, Economics, Natural Sciences, Biology, Engineering, Forensics and Music. However, we would be grateful to receive offers of help in any subject area.

If you would like to be involved and can offer time in early November 2010, please contact Julia Stables at j.stables@lggs.lancs.sch.uk.

Similarly, we have a number of students who would really benefit from having a mentor outside of the school environment to inspire and encourage them to aim high. If you think you might be able to offer, again please contact Julia Stables at j.stables@lggs.lancs.sch.uk.

School Chronicle 2008/9

The 2008/9 school chronicle is now available to buy from school. It is priced at £10.00.

If you left last summer, you can collect a copy on Speech Day (Mon 29th March) but please order/pay by end of January. You can nominate a friend to collect a copy for you, but this must be done with written permission in advance. Please contact reception to order (0152432010)

Events 2010

School Production

The LGGS/LRGS joint production of 'Oh what a lovely war' will be taking place from Tues 2nd – Sat 6th March at the Dukes theatre. Tickets can be purchased from LGGS, LRGS or the Dukes Theatre, towards the end of January (£10 or £8 concessions)

Can you help?

Improving LGGS Facilities

We are delighted that we have been granted planning permission for a dance/drama studio and fitness suite, which will be built next to Biology laboratories 18 and 19. We have also secured £100,000 in funding from the local authority towards the cost of the project. As you can imagine our students are very excited about this valuable opportunity to improve the sports and arts facilities at LGGS. We are also developing an area of land which we recently acquired, adjacent to our sports field. We hope to create another hard court area, a running track and orienteering course.

These opportunities will enable us to improve the facilities at LGGS for all our students. I hope that former pupils will want to support us with these improvements. Our Annual Fund brochure is available to view on the

website (in alumnae section, under 'Annual Brochure'). This outlines the ways in which former pupils can help through a financial gift to the school.

Any former pupil wishing to make a financial contribution, please print off, complete and return the 'donation' form (also available in the alumnae section, under 'Annual Brochure')

I hope that you are able to take the time to read through the brochure and help us to enhance the facilities for current and future pupils at LGGS in whatever way you can.

Garden Group

The school vegetable garden is now well established and we are planning ahead for the next growing season. We would greatly appreciate donations of any surplus plant pots or seed trays and also the plastic punnets that fruit are sold in as we can use them for seeding

Promise Auction – Friday March 12th 2010

Another way of raising money for the school is through helping with our planned Auction of Promises, to be held in school on the evening of March 12th. We are very grateful to a group of our parents led by Dr Janet Lavelle, who are organising the event and hope that many of you will be able to support them. A promise auction involves bidding for pledges donated to raise funds. Our auction will specifically raise money for equipment for the fitness suite. Promises can include: services e.g. gardening, ironing, music tuition, sports coaching, work experience, tickets to sports events, theatre trip, a week in a holiday home.

Thank you to the parents and student who have already made pledges, these include: work experience with a GP and a Solicitor, cake baking, babysitting, tickets to the Buckingham Palace summer exhibition 2010, signed Scotland rugby shirt and entertainment for a child's birthday.

If you would like to make a pledge please email promises@lqgs.lancs.sch.uk. Thank you in advance for your help and I hope that some of you will join us on the evening of Friday March 12th.

Staffing News

Mrs King, Head of KS3, and Maths teacher will be retiring this Christmas. Mrs King has worked at LGGS for over 20 years. Mrs King's mission has been to make Mathematics a relevant and enjoyable subject, and to encourage the fullest possible personal development of students within the school environment. There can be no doubt that she has worked tirelessly and with great success to fulfil this mission. Her contributions to the success of LGGS have been invaluable and we will all miss her. We wish her a long and happy retirement.