



Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS JANUARY 2009

Dear Parents

I would like to wish all LGGS families a very happy New Year.

☐ **Oxbridge offers**

Congratulations to the following Upper Sixth students who have received conditional offers from Cambridge

D Wilkinson to read Medicine at Jesus College
R Johnes to read History at Fitzwilliam College
R Southwell to read Natural Sciences at Jesus College
S Farfort to read Engineering at New Hall (Murray Edwards)
K Young to read History at Corpus Christi College
J Bates to read Geography at Sidney Sussex College
B Spence to read English at Girton College

I know it can be an anxious time as students (and parents!) wait for offers. Well done to all our girls who have received offers for the courses they wish to study. Thank you also to the parents who volunteered to prepare students for interview.

☐ **Staffing News**

- We welcome back Mrs Mandy Dillon, Departmental Support Assistant, following her maternity leave.
- Mrs Jane Harwood, Teacher of Food Technology, has to go in to hospital at the end of this month and is likely to be absent for the rest of the term. We have been fortunate in securing two Food Tech teachers who will cover her timetable, Mrs Elizabeth Phillips and Mrs Janet Huddart.

☐ **Flagship School: Food for Life**

We are pleased to have been selected by the Food for Life Partnership to become one of 180 Flagship schools and Communities across England that will be recognised as national leaders on food quality and food education. We are the only secondary school in Lancashire to be chosen and one of 6 schools selected in the NW region this time round.

Many thanks to the pupils in our Eco-group and Food Focus group who gave presentations about their work in school which really impressed the selectors. Thank you also to Mrs Workman and Mrs Harwood for all their hard work with the groups. The Food for Life Partnership will now help us put more fresh, local and organic food on the menu and involve our pupils and interested parents and community groups in cooking and growing food and visiting local farms.

☐ **Parental Information**

Year 7 Personal, Social and Health Education

We have made some changes to our Year 7 sex education curriculum. Any parents who wish to view these changes can contact Miss Hope, Personal Well-Being Teacher, at school or view them on the VLE.

Year 10 Health and Learning Day

On Tuesday 20th January all Year 10 will be off timetable for a health and learning day. In the morning there will be sessions led by the school nurse, Anita Sloane, the Pregnancy and Parenthood Service and Hope UK (a drug and alcohol education charity). In the afternoon the pupils will take part in workshops to help develop their study skills, in particular mind mapping. If you would like more information about the content of the health sessions please contact Miss Hope.

Knife Crime Presentations

All year groups will be involved in special knife crime assemblies this term. These will be led by members of the Lancashire Police Armed Response Unit and Paramedics. The hard hitting presentations show pupils the consequences of knife attacks and how to react if you are a victim of a knife attack. Any parent who would like more information on the content of these presentations should contact Mrs Workman, Head of Citizenship.

Cashless Catering

Unfortunately, problems with our suppliers have meant we have not been able to introduce a cashless system for the start of term. However, we have been promised a start date for early March. Parents will receive a separate letter outlining the new arrangements.

□ Fundraising Activities

Last term was a particularly good term in terms of fundraising. Our girls gave most generously to Children in Need and enjoyed a fantastic lunchtime concert with many teachers showing off their musical and dancing talents! Thank you to the 8K and 8M forms who held very successful cake stalls. An extra special mention to sixth formers B Thomas and A Rhodes who organised a Children in Need charity disco for sixth formers. Over 300 people attended and it was a great success, making a profit of £1218 for the charity. In total, the school has donated £3646 (over £300 more than last year) to Children in Need.

The charity prefects have used the charity collections on a Tuesday morning to make the following donations:

- £1000 to the Make a Wish Foundation.
- £1000 to the local Macmillan Cancer Care group.
- £345 to our sponsored child in Ethiopia in the form of a water pump for his village, maternity care for women and school resources.

Other fundraising activities included:

- 8M organised a cake stall which raised £135 for the RSPCA.
- 11J held a cake stall for Women Kind, a charity which helps women in developing countries to have a say in what goes on in their community. They raised £107.
- Our Christmas card competition raised £125 for the Tap Fund Project. Thank you to I Budzynska (12WK) for her lovely design.

I was delighted to receive a letter from Oxfam informing me that sixth former L Brown donated £624 from an Oxfam fundraiser she organised. This is the second event she has organised, raising £1,400 in total. As the letter states 'I would like to congratulate you on your marvellous pupil who brings credit to LGGS and my heart felt thanks goes to her, today's fundraiser – tomorrow's mover and shaker'.

□ Sporting Successes

Lancashire Hockey Selection

We were highly delighted to have a considerable number of our girls attending the Lancashire hockey trials. The following were chosen to represent their respective age groups:

C Elley (Yr 7)

M Vaughan –Jones (Yr 9)

K Abraham (Yr 11)

E Catlow (Yr 12)

S Foster (Yr 7)

S Dalton (Yr 10)

E Deason (Yr 11)

C Carter (Yr 12)

I Lavelle (Yr 9)

K Lavelle (Yr 11)

S Smith (Yr 12)

A special mention must go to E Deason who was selected to be part of the final North Development squad after going through several competitive selection stages.

District Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected to run for the Lancaster and Morecambe District as a result of these championships.

M Hodgson Year 7 (1 st)	R Harvey Year 10
A Walker Year 7 (3 rd)	K Harding Year 10
J McCracken Year 7 (1 st)	H Bateson Year 13
S Hodgson Year 8 (1 st)	A Jarman Year 12
Z Harding Year 8 (3 rd)	S Fletcher Year 12

In the team events, the LGGs Year 7 and the combined Year 8/9 team both finished first and the Year 10 and 11 finished third.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by H Bateson and A Jarman. They have taken over the running club this year and we thank them for their contributions to these outstanding results.

UK Senior Maths Challenge

The competition is primarily aimed at Upper Sixth mathematicians. This year 93 girls from LGGs entered this major event which attracted over 90,000 entrants nationally. Once again we did very well achieving 7 gold certificates, 21 silver and 20 bronze. The highest scorer within the school was R Southwell who as well as gaining a gold certificate was invited by the organisers to participate in the first round of the British Mathematical Olympiad (which is a gruelling 3½ hour exam).

Other gold certificate winners were:

Year 13:	S Farfort, M Bousfield and H Wood
Year 12:	A Holden
Year 11:	S Auckburally and N Clarkson

Special praise for S Auckburally and N Clarkson and their achievement in a competition aimed at pupils nearly completing their A level Maths course!

Orienteering – British Schools' Championships

I am delighted that LGGs was able to enter teams in this ever-growing sport. Thanks once again to Mr Quentin Harding for all his hard work in training the teams.

The Year 7 team performed excellently and were overall winners, a great achievement. The team consisted of:

H Ockenden
S Roberts
M Hodgson
H Browne

The Year 9 team also did very well and came second overall. Congratulations to:

Z Harding (who came 2nd individually)
K Browne
S Hodgson

The Year 11 team also finished second overall. The team consisted of:

K Harding (who finished 2nd individually)
J Tynan
E Granger

Swimming

Congratulations to our Intermediate Freestyle Relay team who came third in the recent Secondary Team Swimming Championships in Birkenhead. The team consisted of the following Year 10 girls:

I Rawlinson
S Rawlinson
R Harvey

Biathlon

Mrs Sandbach took several girls to compete in the NW Biathlon. This event involved swimming and running various distances, depending on the age group. The girls were given the opportunity to swim in the new aquatics centre in Liverpool. Congratulations to the following girls who all received trophies.

Year 7 M Hodgson
 K Howard
 J McCracken
Year 9 S Hodgson
Year 10 I Rawlinson

Well done to C Gill and K Langley who also performed well.

Our Year 10 team came second overall. Congratulations to:

I Rawlinson
R Harvey
S Rawlinson
J Gill

□ Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Congratulations to the following girls for their Duke of Edinburgh recent successes:

Bronze Level

Year 11: K Briggs
 J Dawson
 S Hawksby
Year 12: L Britton
 J Chauhan
 S Easterby-Smith
 C Gill
 R Graham
 F Hetherington
 L Richmond
 E Robinson
 J Shutt
Year 13: J Morgan

Silver Level

Year 13: L Baudains Smith
 S Dufton
 K Fishwick
 V Golash
 J Morgan
 H Thompson

Thank you to Mrs Yvonne Cunningham, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator and LGGGS staff who give up so much time to support the Award Scheme. We are grateful to the Friends of LGGGS for their recent donation of £1000 for Duke of Edinburgh equipment.

☐ **Young Chef Challenge**

The four finalists from LGGGS who were entered for the Young Chef Challenge organised by British Meat Education this term were:

F Darlington
H Grigg
S Hodgson
K Molloy

K Molloy was selected to make her recipe in Manchester on 1st December and James Martin from 'Saturday Kitchen' was the judge.

Menu: *Cheesy beef Yorkshire puddings served on a bed of creamed shredded sprouts.*

She did not win but she had a super time, won a prize and was photographed with James Martin.

☐ **Wanted: Paint**

Do you have any remnants of paint that you no longer need? Eco-group are re-using large cans as planters this spring and need some paint to decorate the cans and make them look attractive. Please send cans of paint to Mrs Workman or Mrs Harwood. Thank you.

☐ **Books for Schools**

We have signed up for a great new collection scheme that could provide us with hundreds of new books for the school library, and we would like your help.

From January 11, Books for Schools tokens will appear every day in The Times and The Sunday Times. We can exchange these tokens for free books of our choice from a catalogue of 170 titles. There will be 12 tokens printed every week, and with books starting at only 10 tokens, you don't have to be a regular Times reader to really make a difference to our collection.

Please collect as many tokens as you can and given them to your child to bring to school. Tokens can be deposited in our special collection boxes or given to a member of staff.

We will be placing our first book order at the end of the spring term, so please make sure we have all your tokens before the Easter holidays begin.

The Times are also offering a reduced subscription rate with extra tokens for parents who sign up. See timesonline.co.uk/subscribe for details.

☐ **Clubs and Activities – Spring 2009**

This term we are running many extra curricular events. Please encourage your daughter(s) to participate. Each form has a booklet giving details of the activities. Among the new activities this term are Fencing and the Joint Drama Club.

Monday: Lunchtime
Senior Dance – All Welcome
Netball – Year 9
Junior Choir – Years 7-9
LGGGS Chronicle – Year 11
Library – Year 7
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Gold) – Years 12&13

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) – Years 11-13
Amnesty International – All Years
Faulkes Telescope Observation – Year 10
Spelling Support – All Years
After School
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze) – Year 10
Self Defence – Years 10 & 11
Art Support – All welcome

Tuesday:

Lunchtime
Gymnastics – All years
Netball – Years 7 & 8
Orienteering – Years 7 & 9
Senior Choir – Years 10-13
Christian Union – All Years
Library – Year 8
Italian Club – Years 7 & 8
Food Focus Group – Fortnightly Week B
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Gold) – Years 12-13
Coursework Clinic – Years 10 & 11
After School
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) – Years 11-13
Young Enterprise – Year 10
Mandarin Chinese – Year 8
Karate Club – All Years
Science Club – Year 7
Fencing – Years 10 & 11

Wednesday:

Lunchtime
Senior Hockey – Years 10 -13
Running Club – All Years
Football – All Years
Big Band – All Years
Library – Year 9
After School
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze) – Year 10
Mandarin Chinese – Year 7
Boxercise – Years 10-13
LGS & LRGS Joint Drama Club – Years 7-9
Coursework Clinic – Years 10 & 11

Thursday:

Lunchtime
Hockey – Years 8 & 9
Fun Aerobics/Fitness Club – All Years
Junior Strings – Fortnightly Week B
Magistrates' Court Club – Years 8 & 9
Library – Year 10
Sixth Form Council Meetings – check minutes for dates
Globetrotters
Recital Performance – Fortnightly Week A
After School
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) – Years 11-13
Eco Fashion and Textiles – All Years
Arts Award (Silver) – Years 10-13
Recorder Club – Years 7-9

Friday: Lunchtime
Hockey – Year 7
Running Club – All Years
Hockey Goal Keeping – Year 7
Dance – All Years
Senior Choir – Years 10-13
KLANGO
Library – Year 11
Eco-Group and Garden Group – All Years

☐ **Year 10 Girls' Group**

Mrs Walker, Head of Key Stage 4, and Anita Sloane, School Nurse, will be running a girls' group for Year 10 this term. The group will consider issues such as friendship, self esteem and anxieties. The girls will be referred by teachers and this may be because we are concerned about their well-being, academic progress or attendance. If you would not wish your daughter to be included in the group please let Mrs Walker know.

☐ **School Chronicle**

This year's LGGGS School Chronicle is now available for £9.00 from Reception. Please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter if you would like to purchase a copy.

Future events this half term

Wednesday 14th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 20th January	Year 10 Health and Learning Day
Thursday 29th January	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 4th February	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork
Thursday 5th February	Year 9 Option Evening
Monday 9th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday 9th February – Wednesday 11th February	Year 11 into 12 Transition Day
Friday 13th February	School closes for half term

The Joint Musical 'Guys and Dolls' takes place from Tuesday 17th March to Friday 20th March. More details and arrangements for the purchase of tickets will follow shortly.

Receipt of Newsletter

Please sign the page in your daughter's planner to acknowledge receipt of this Newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Cahalan

HEADTEACHER

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LANCASTER GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHRONICLE

I / We would like to purchase a copy of the School Chronicle and enclose payment of £9.00

Name of Daughter: _____

Form: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____