



November
2011

LGGS

Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

Dear Parents

As we return to school after half term, it is very pleasing that we are able to see the impact of the improvements we are making to the school facilities. The first of our ICT rooms to be refurbished and have air conditioning installed, Room 3, is now up and running and looks fantastic. By the end of this half term all our ICT rooms will have been improved. After Christmas, work starts on the library. The plans for our exciting new development; the sixth form centre, have been submitted and all going well, work will start after Christmas. Our aim is to equip at least three of the ICT rooms with new computers. Parents of Years 7, 10 and 12 students have already received a copy of our annual fund brochure at our information and welcome evenings. I would like to thank all those parents

who have already contributed to our Annual Fund this year. I have enclosed copies of our Annual Fund brochure for those year groups who have not as yet received a copy. If you have any questions concerning the annual fund or our buildings development programme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jackie Cahalin

Headteacher



Staffing News

Many congratulations to **Mrs Rachael Gibson** and her husband on the birth of their son Ezra Joel who was born on September 26th.

Mrs Claire Singleton, part time Teacher of English, starts her maternity leave at Christmas. We have been able to anticipate some more staffing changes this summer and have taken the opportunity to make a permanent, full term appointment to the English department rather than a temporary maternity cover. I am delighted that we have been able to appoint a well qualified teacher of English, **Mr James Grundy**, who has been teaching at St Christopher's C.E. High School in Accrington for the last three years. He will take over all of Mrs Singleton's classes.

LGGS Academy Trust Governing Body

At our September meeting of the Governing Body Mr Philip Oglethorpe stood down as Chairman of the LGGS Governing body after twenty one years of valuable service to LGGS. Mr Oglethorpe intends to leave our governing body at the Annual General Meeting in March when we will have the opportunity to thank him for his greatly appreciated contribution to the success of LGGS.

Mrs Sue Hodgson, who has considerable experience as Vice-Chair, was elected Chairman and **Dr Janet Lavelle** elected Vice Chairman. We currently have two vacancies for parent governors and parents should have received details about this in a letter sent home via the students.



LIBRARY NEWS

Ally Carter

On Tuesday 20th September award winning author, Ally Carter of the 'Gallagher Girls' series, flew in from America to speak to a packed hall of girls from years 8 and 9. After an inspirational and humorous account of her life to date Ally went on to answer the many questions the girls had lined up for her. This was a hugely popular event which culminated in Ally patiently personalising over one hundred books from her latest series 'Heist Society'!

Jacqueline Wilson Competition

In the last newsletter we mentioned some of the LGGS successes in the Jacqueline Wilson competition. The actual results were even better with six LGGS students going on to

win their categories. All students worked incredibly hard in their English lessons to complete and fine-tune their entries. The following girls won one of only ten places within each category of the competition:

Short story writing

J Shaw (9M)
H Fligelstone (9K)
R Johnstone (9L)

Journalist for a day

A Jennings (9K)
E Gresty (8K)

Design a front cover

A Hallam (9K)

The winners had a fantastic day which included lunch with Jacqueline Wilson, interviewing both her and Nick Sharratt, her illustrator, taking part in workshops, receiving signed copies of her books and being honorary guests at the Jacqueline Wilson Festival.



Preparation for Higher Education Interview Evening

We ran a very successful **HE Mock Interview** evening on October 31st. This is the first time we have organised our mock interviews this way and it was a very productive evening. Our Year 13 students gained a great deal of useful feedback following their interviews. We had fifteen parents, university tutors and members of the professions in school to carry out the interviews. Thank you to everyone involved in making it such a useful and worthwhile experience. We are also very grateful to everybody who has come into school on other occasions to help with this programme.



Red Tractor Make it with Mince Challenge 2011

Congratulations to our two year 9 students, **L Riggs and A Forber**, who have been selected as regional finalists for the Red Tractor Make it with Mince Challenge 2011. The judges were really impressed with L Riggs' superior Spiced Steak Kebabs and Oven Roasted Garlic Tomatoes served on a bed of Wild Rocket and with A Forber's Spicy Cottage Pie with a Buttery Squash Topping.

The next stage of the competition involves both students cooking the recipe for James Martin and the other judges at the Manchester regional heat. They will have one hour to cook the recipe in an exciting cook-off against seven other students from across the region. The dishes will be judged on originality, cooking skills, presentation, and of course taste!

The regional heat will be held at Manchester College on 14th November 2011. We wish both girls well and I am sure they will have a very enjoyable day.





Friends of LGGS Events

Thank you to all the year 7 LGGS families who attended our Quiz Night last half term. It was our best attended Quiz Night yet and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The event raised over £700 for the school which will be used to fund new ICT equipment for our refurbished rooms.

The Friends are busy organising a host of events for this year and hopefully with your support, they will all be successful fundraisers as well as a chance to meet other LGGS families and to enjoy yourselves.



The Friends are also organising a **Christmas Bauble Competition** with a £40 voucher to be used at the Chill Factor in Manchester as the main prize and smaller prizes for each year group. Each entry is £1 and students can enter as many times as they like. The Baubles will be displayed on the LGGS Christmas tree in December before being returned to the girls at the end of term. The Baubles should be brought in to school the week beginning November 28th with judging taking place early in December. **Please encourage your daughter to take part.**

The next Friends Meeting is at 7.00pm on Monday 5th December. Everybody welcome.

The next evening event organised by the Friends is the **Mamma Mia Sing-a-long** at 7.00pm on Thursday 9th February. Tickets are available from Reception next week, priced at £3 adult and £1 children. Another date for your diary is the Fun Run which is booked for Tuesday 19th June at 6.00pm.

MAMMA MIA!
sing-a-long



School council News

Currently School Council is focusing on our resources on the VLE. We have agreed that this opportunity should encourage students to get involved with the school council and remind them of how school council is an effective way of improving the school in the ways they wish to see. The school council page can be accessed from the main page of the VLE (vle.lggs.lancs.sch.uk) and here there are several ways that students can have an input. There will be a discussion topic, where students can leave comments about a topic that has been put forward by suggestions. All comments would be identified with the pupil's name to ensure any possible abuse of this feature is prevented. Additionally, surveys can be constructed to obtain more specific opinions about a suggestion; students will fill them out electronically, cutting paper and printing costs if a large survey is to be taken. There will also be a posed question where students will simply answer 'yes' or 'no' – this can then be devised into graphs or charts which will support suggestions when presented to Mrs Cahalin for her comments. Upcoming topics that are due to be discussed via the VLE are: the new planners, the refurbishment of the school's library and the Sixth Form building that is planned for completion by the new academic year in 2012.

G M-Elsworth Year 11 (Form representative on the School Council)





Sporting successes

The LGGS hockey team have enjoyed a number of successes this term with our 1st XI beating Ripley 1-0 and our Year 8 A and B winning 6-0 and 3-0 against Morecambe High School.

Our 1st XI and 2nd XI teams gained valuable experience playing against an Argentinean team who were touring England. This was the first fixture for both teams with new representatives in each squad. The 1st XI captained by A Bush won 2-0, a fantastic hard fought game and the 2nd XI, captained by H Winstanley won 1-0 with a fantastic performance by H Chetwynd-Diggle from year 10 in goal.

Individual successes

Well done to the LGGS students who represented us in the English Fell Championships in October at a very muddy course at Cockermouth School, Cumbria. The Year 10/11 girls competed over four miles of fell and many congratulations to year 10 student M Hodgson who gained sixth position. In the sixth form event Z Harding (LGGS), more usually known for her orienteering prowess, had an excellent race, beating more experienced fell runners to finish sixth. She was well supported by C Beadle (seventeenth).

Congratulations again to M Hodgson who with her sister S Hodgson (year 12) competed in the World Biathlon Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria. Biathlon is a continuous run-swim-run event. At 10am, M Hodgson raced in the U15 age group she competed over distances of a 500m run a 100m swim and then another 500m run. M Hodgson performed at a very high level winning the Silver medal, helping the Great Britain team to win Gold. In the U17 event S Hodgson competed over distances of a 1000m run, a 200m swim and then another 1000m run, she also performed very well to finish an excellent tenth.

Well done to R Dale who has been nominated by England Hockey as a potential International hockey player and has been selected to train at the National Hockey centre with the National Hockey team at U16, two year groups their junior.

Sixth former K Hesketh had a very busy but successful summer of water polo sport. She took part in three tournaments abroad France, Hungary and the European Championships in Madrid. In the French Tournament she was GBs top goal scorer and helped GB to win a Bronze medal.

In Hungary, Great Britain against all expectations, won the Olympic Hopes Tournament. K Hesketh was GBs top goal scorer and second top overall. She was also voted best player of the tournament, which is a first for a GB outfield player in a European Tournament (there were over sixty players competing). Her good performances over the summer resulted in K Hesketh being selected as the GB captain for the European Championships - obviously a great honour. She again performed very well and scored 26 goals - the fourth highest in the tournament which consisted of sixteen teams. GB eventually finished ninth. She is now preparing for the British Water Polo league and continuing with her GB training for the 2012 European Championships. What a star!

In the Home Nations Juniors Orienteering Championships held in Ireland in October H Cleary-Hughes, H Ockenden and Z Harding represented England in the competition. H Cleary-Hughes came first in her year group (U14), H Ockenden came fifth in the U15 and Z Harding second in the U18. Many congratulations to all three students for their fantastic achievements.



Car Parking Our neighbours at the school playing fields are experiencing some problems with parking when we have after school matches. As you will probably be aware parking is very limited and we would recommend using the Dallas Road council owned car park. I would be particularly grateful if parents did not park on any private land in particular the forecourt of the garage on Carr House lane.



Recent educational visits

October is always a very busy time in the LGGS calendar for educational visits and opportunities. There were four visits abroad over half term plus an earlier visit to Thailand by some of our Science Sixth Formers. The following accounts show you what a fantastic experience the students have enjoyed.



Barbados Hockey Tour

The weather was considerably better in St James than when we left London, and we stepped off the plane into 30°C ... sunshine! However we didn't have long to acclimatise to the heat and humidity, as our first game was on the Thursday. Looking smart in our white strip, we took to the pitch against the Barbadian team. Their style of hockey was a lot more physical than ours, but we focussed on our game and worked hard in the heat. C Rogerson, voted player of the match, scored a goal, but unfortunately we conceded 2 to lose 2-1. Our second game took place on the Saturday and by this time we had become accustomed to the heat. We had some great link-up play between the midfield and forwards, and we defended well against the opposition's attacks. The final score was 0-0, with L Horner being awarded girl of the game. Our third and final game was by far our best, making both Miss Sharples and Miss Broadfield proud. Despite it taking place in the middle of a torrential tropical downpour, we managed to play some fantastic hockey and our efforts were

rewarded when H Winstanley scored a brilliant goal, for which she was awarded girl of the game. Playing against a foreign team has opened our eyes to different styles of play, and we hope to develop some of this into our own games back home.

Whilst abroad, we were given lots of opportunities to see Barbados and its culture. Visiting a local fish market, we had chance to try the local delicacy 'flying fish', as well as witnessing some traditional Caribbean dancing. We went on a catamaran boat trip, where we could swim with turtles and go snorkelling around an old shipwreck - an amazing and unique experience for everyone!

The white sandy beaches and blue sea were a great novelty compared to Morecambe Bay, with everyone making the most of swimming in clear waters and sunbathing on sand, not mud! A great time was had by all the team, teachers included, with everyone taking away memories that will be remembered for a very long time.

L Green (Sports Captain)

International Science Fair Thailand



This year's International Science Fair was set in exotic Thailand close to the capitol Bangkok.

Apart from the heat, the first thing to strike you will probably be the smell and humidity, not unpleasant, but a striking combination of lemon grass, spices and perhaps an occasional whiff of drains. Next, the dust and traffic fumes as Bangkok is probably the world's largest permanent traffic jam. We spent two days based in Bangkok itself, staying in the 5 star Sheraton Hotel next to the river which was the perfect luxury base for sightseeing.

One of the best ways to see Bangkok is undoubtedly by speedboat and tuk tuks, the local equivalent of our taxis. This provided a relaxing and cool way to explore the streets of Bangkok. Among the more memorable places we visited was the dazzling and spectacular Grand Palace which was built in 1872 and for 150 years, the home of the Thai king and administrative seat of government. Even today it remains the spiritual



heart of the Thai kingdom. Travelling by speedboat around the many canals of Bangkok proved to be an exhilarating way of viewing old Bangkok and to see some of the traditional built Thai houses and shops. In fact Bangkok is nicknamed the Venice of the east as it evokes the romance of the Orient. On our second day we travelled north close to the Burmese border, visiting the Bridge over

the River Kwai, made famous in the 1957 World War II movie starring Alec Guinness. This tour included a very moving visit to the war cemetery and museum to see how allied prisoners of war lived and were treated. During the afternoon a visit to a tiger temple provided a rare opportunity to cuddle and feed tiger cubs. Fortunately the girls did not take one home, despite much pleading!

On day 3 we set off for the Mahidol

Wittayanusorn School which was to be our base for our remaining stay in Thailand and the venue for the Science Fair. A Science Fair is an event where contestants present their science project in the form of a poster and presentation. The project provides a mechanism for students with an interest in science to be paired with mentors from university so they can access

"The project provides a mechanism for students with an interest in science to be paired with mentors from university so they can access equipment and



International Science Fair Thailand

equipment and resources not usually available through schools.

These events provide an excellent opportunity for students to mix with students from other cultures, to exchange ideas and present a project based on original research.

This year's event saw participating schools from Canada, USA, Indonesia, Korea, India, China, Japan, Thailand, Russia and Khazakstan.

LGGS are fortunate every year to be awarded two Nuffield Bursaries from Lancaster University which allows two students to pursue a paid research

project over the summer. Our Project was entitled

"Does Isoprene protect plants from drought".

This involved the production of an information poster and a formal presentation to a panel of university and college specialists.

Needless to say our girls proved a credit to both the UK and LGGS.

Our Thai hosts made us feel very welcome and the first evening involved schools giving cultural presentations of music and dance with the final day ending in a grand farewell party with Thai students providing an evening of Traditional Thai music and dance as well as popular pop

music which at the end of the evening had everyone doing the conga around the concert hall including some rather embarrassed teachers. Our final day involved more sightseeing, visiting a working museum on how traditional Thais lived and worked and culminated in a majestic ride on an elephant. LGGS has a proud tradition of attending International Science Fairs and aims to keep the UK on the map as far as such events are concerned. Our aim continues to be to provide a first class science education for all our girls and to provide opportunities for gifted and talented students to show their ingenuity and creativity.



Look out for more pictures on the website soon

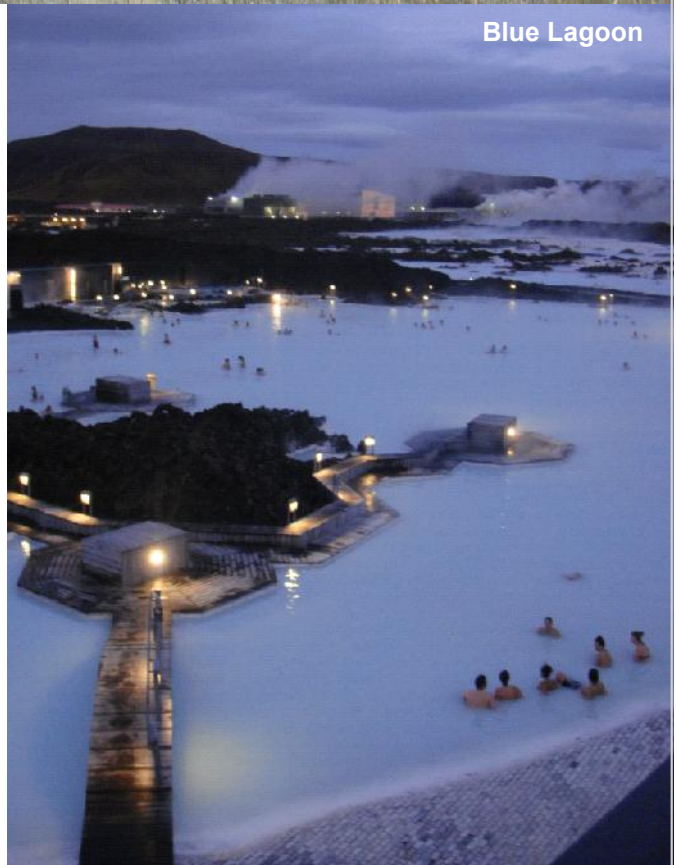
Iceland ... we were reminded of the 'alive' nature of Iceland's landscape



Extinct volcano

My understanding of the importance of Iceland as a geomorphological site began with our first journey in Iceland; from the airport to the Blue Lagoon.

This short journey, took us through an almost Menacing landscape, a distorted and bleak expanse of rock, which Mr Haslam informed us was a basaltic lava flow from a past, very powerful eruption. So immediately we were reminded of the 'alive' nature of Iceland's landscape. The Blue Lagoon itself, a geothermal, natural, outdoor swimming pool,



Blue Lagoon

Iceland

whose water is supposed to bring health benefits particularly for the skin, was very surreal and proved to be the perfect way to relax after the inevitable stress of the journey. We were swimming in a world of mysterious and ambiguous figures masked by the steam, with a pleasant view of the Icelandic scenery.

The first full day was crammed with visiting numerous geographical and historical sites. We visited three waterfalls, including Gullfoss which well deserves its impressive reputation, an extinct volcanic crater and a geothermal geyser site. My personal favourite visit of this day, however, was to Pingvellir National Park where we visited the site of Iceland's Parliament which was first held in 930AD. In the evening, to end an already incredible day, we were taken by coach to a spot to see



the Northern Lights, which, although were not as impressive as many of the photographs, were still beautifully ethereal. On the second full day, we visited Skogafoss, which was the most memorable waterfall yet. That night, we stayed not at the Youth

"The highlight of the trip, for me, however, came on the last day where we climbed an extinct volcano"

Hostel but at a place called Hellishola, where we had the novelty of sharing little wooden cabins in groups. The highlight of the trip, for me, however, came on the last day where we climbed an extinct volcano in the middle of a U-Shaped Valley. The decision to drag a bunch of teenagers up a steep slope early in the morning was

admittedly not at first a popular one. However, when we finally reached the top it was a special moment as the view was phenomenal. It also granted us the chance to assess the physical landscape before us. The second visit of the day was to an

earthquake exhibition with a terrifying simulator and then we had a short visit to another geothermal site. Finally, the afternoon of the last day was spent in Reykjavik where we endeavoured to spend our remaining króna on gifts for our families.
E Thompson
Year 13 (A level Geography Student)



The Northern Lights



China ... the best two weeks of my life

The school's China trip was absolutely amazing and undoubtedly the two weeks I spent there were the best two weeks of my life. The days were full of exciting activities and we did such a range of things, from climbing to the top of the TV tower and having a 360 degree view of Shanghai; to shopping in the real pearl markets and losing ourselves in the ancient mountains of Guilin. I must also say one of the great factors about China, was indeed the shopping! Beautiful handcrafted necklaces, 100% silk dressing gowns and shoes, shoes littered the streets and all for Primark prices! Before going to china, a huge worry in my mind was food - what if it tasted awful? What if I ended up eating Octopus? What happened it I couldn't use chopsticks? I would love to say that none of this happened to me, but I'm afraid to say I did find myself dropping Octopus tentacles onto my lap by accident. I generally ran by the rule that if you like it, don't ask what it is! And I must admit that in all modesty I'm somewhat of a chopstick pro now! Some of the most memorable moments for me were teaching a class of six year old little Chinese girls and discovering they were almost better at English than me, going to a Chinese home-stay and finally bartering so hard that I got a Cath Kidson bag down to £8.50. I guess viewing the breath-taking Hong Kong skyline at night and exploring the busy ancient streets of Shanghai weren't too bad either! China was definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity and I would recommend to anyone and everyone that they went, it was an amazing experience. *(C Bristow Year 11)*



Look out for more pictures on the website soon





Galicia - GCSE Spanish Trip

Fourteen girls, two teachers, five days and one destination. From the minute we landed in A Coruna, the excitement could no longer be contained! Waking up as early as 6am, each day was filled with plenty of activities including visiting the famous Cathedral of Santiago Compostela where we had a fluent Spanish tour. We also visited, the brilliant Museo de Belas Artes where we were shown original pieces of classic art by famous artists such as Picasso.

The days ended with the group going to a nearby tapas restaurant each night. Here, the "mmm" and "ahhh" were often heard because of the amazing tasting authentic Spanish cuisine compared to the more anglicised dishes we were used to at home. The dish, "Pulpo" (Octopus) really separated the girls from the women, although everyone was willing to try new things. It felt as though we were in the textbooks we read about in the classroom. We were at first hand with the Spanish culture; speaking the language and learning the ways in which they lived, and comparing them to our own lives. Of course, with every trip is something on the itinerary you hope will be forgotten about. Unfortunately, Senorita Casablanca and Senorita Fawcett were eager to leave the hotel lobby in order to complete the 17 mile pilgrimage in which we would "find ourselves" and "repent for sins". The only thing I found out was that Maxine doesn't like hills, it rains in Spain and I was repenting for going to sleep the wrong side of 12am! To be fair, we did learn a lot about the city, the religion and how famous the walk actually was. The hard work and effort both teachers put in to the trip made it all the more worthwhile. Five days that will not be forgotten in a hurry!

N Onek (Year 11)





Charities News

It has already been a busy term for raising money. The newly formed Charities Committee has already promoted raising money for the school's nominated charities and they are busy planning future events. Some fundraising initiatives have already taken place.

Over the past half term girls who returned from their **Summer World Challenge Expedition** in Ethiopia have been raising money to build toilets in Tokuma Elementary School. The '**International Dress-Up Day**' was a huge success and raised £850 and together with donations from this year's **Harvest Festival** totalled £1041.



"We still have a long way to go so are planning to hold some more fundraising events this half term. Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to this fund, your donations will go a long way in providing the students and staff and Tokuma Elementary School safe and clean toilets." Eloise.

The **North West Air Am-**



balance received a donation of £1000 to coincide with the "**Go Yellow**" raising awareness week (26th September to 2nd October). This was from previous year's charity funds and plans are in effect to raise more money for this organisation later this year. Alice, from year 11 presented the money as she has a special reason to support this charity, having used their services last year. Thankfully Alice's recovery is going really well.

Currently students are thinking of original ideas for raising money for the big event of the year **CHILDREN IN NEED** in November. To dress up their form teacher for the day (an LGGS tradition) costs each form at least £30. All money goes to the Children in



Need fund.

The Sixth Form's Charity Committee, lead by M Kelly, took advantage of the Year 13 students' expertise and organised a "**Year 12 Volunteers' Fair**" where students entering professions that need volunteering placements and experience could sign up to different local organisations. A number of charities ran stalls that promoted their charity, as well as voluntary groups. This proved extremely successful, and many Year 12 students have gained long term volunteer placements, jobs or temporary work experience. A carefully crafted contact book was also made, by E Newton, holding information on organisations that could not attend the fair.

The afternoon followed a series of other successes from the Charity Committee including a new system whereby each school house represents a local charity.
C Ashley Year 12

School policy on trips and visits

May I also take this opportunity to remind parents of our policy concerning trips and visits. We do insist that for the vast majority of our trips and certainly those for students in years 7 to 11, all students must join the visit at the designated starting point, which is usually school and must travel back with the group to school. I appreciate this can cause problems for some parents in terms of picking up and dropping off, but we cannot accommodate individual requests for different arrangements, which would affect the smooth running of the visit and cause problems for the students and visit organisers.



The sky's the limit for LGGS' RAF Cadets

This is the first year that LGGS pupils have been invited to join the RAF Cadets, based at LRGS school and it has been an amazing experience so far this term for all the girls involved.

As part of our training, which includes a lot of parading, we were invited to take part in a day of flying at RAF Woodvale near Southport where we were able to fly a Grob Tutor plane under guidance of an RAF pilot.

We put on our green overalls, parachute and large helmet with built in intercom - so that we could communicate with the pilot - and felt like someone out of the film Top Gun. Once in the air we flew over Blackpool and Morecambe Bay, everything below seemed so small including the Tower which looked as if it had been built from Lego. You don't realise how close Blackpool is to Liverpool it takes ages by motorway but only about 15 minutes by plane as we flew directly across the Ribble Estuary. On the return journey, we were given the

opportunity to take control of the plane, easing the joystick slowly into position to turn, lift or dive.

On landing we experienced G-Force - your stomach and neck muscles contract and you feel heavy as you are pushed back into your seat. Overall, the day was amazing, exhilarating and exciting and one that we shall all remember for a very long time. **Year 9 pupil**



Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering

Congratulations to the following Year 10 students who have successfully passed their Level 2 exam:

N Basama, E Davies, H Delaney, R Durham, C Elley, M Forrest, L Frost, A Gatrell, G Gibson, M Gosling, R Harrison, E Hezel, H Lawrinson-Chettoe, J McCracken, G McGuirk, A-I Riggs, S Stott, M Watts, L Whiteside and C Wild.

European Languages Day

Year 7s entered into the spirit of our International Week and enjoyed their European Day of Languages as the two following student accounts show. There are some more lovely accounts by the girls on our website.

On Wednesday the 28th of September 2011, Year 7 pupils at Lancaster Girls Grammar School celebrated European Languages Week by being off timetable for the whole day. They spent most of their day taking part in lots of fun activities that varied from learning to sing

songs in different languages, to making a collage to represent all the different countries taking part in the London 2012 Olympics. One thing that happens every year at school aimed to help celebrate European Languages Week is the LGGS 'Eurovision song contest'. Each form in year 7 learns to sing a song in French, film it, and then years 8 & 9 watch all of them and vote for their favourite. The 2011 results were announced later in the day, and form 7J, who represent one of the four houses, Aalborg, won.

During the morning the pupils took part in some of the activities and in the afternoon, they all gathered in the Hall and showed everyone else what they had been doing in the morning. One of the activities was making quizzes on anything to do with Europe and its countries. Everybody answered the questions that had been invented and the winners of the quiz were announced later in the afternoon. All in all, the day was a success, and all of the pupils and staff at LGGS look forward to celebrating European Languages Week again next year. *Katherine D*

First of all, we went to the Centenary Hall to be put into mixed groups, I loved the people I was with, I think it was because they were all lovely and just the fact that we were with people from other forms. We then went down to the Art Block to make the 2012 Olympic Logo in a wacky, European way. We all worked as small groups at first but then at about 10.30am we came together to stick it all in the right place, afterwards it looked really cool, new and unique, as well as being part of the team that made the collage Zoe F and I were asked to present it in assembly that afternoon.

After break, at 11.15am, we went to the Centenary Hall to play some games in Spanish. We did this really fun game, I can't remember what it was called, but we sang a song in Spanish and when you got to a certain word, if you were tapped then you were out or if you tapped yourself you were out, we didn't finish it but I was one of the last in. The next was a song with actions, this was harder than it looked or sounded because you had to remember the words and arm and leg actions all at the same time. I think that one was called 'Chocolate' but you pronounced it choco-la-te.

Afterwards, it was lunch and outside it was boiling so we all sat out on the grass for a while and then we remembered that on sunny days the 'Pear-Tree Gardens' was open. We went along there and joined in a Boules game that was taking place; it was great fun, even though I only won once, as you get a sticker. I was happy about that because three stickers make a school merit. The game soon finished and it was soon time for Zoe and I to go and collect the piece of artwork and take it to the Centenary Hall, to show and talk about it to the rest of Year 7.

We moved it and had just about figured out what we were going to say, when soon enough it was time to go back to the Form Room for afternoon registration so we scurried back. At 1.30pm, all the year 7s made their way down to the Centenary Hall. Once there, everyone showed off what they had done that day including Zoe and I who represented and presented our group's collage. This lasted till 3.30pm, the end of the school day. I don't know about the rest of the year 7s but I loved it and can't wait until next year comes around. Tomorrow, I'm doing the Thi-Chi Club at lunchtime and can't wait. I don't think that my day could have been any better. *Rebecca H*





Internet Safety

We would like to bring to your attention a website which we are aware a number of our girls are using, which does give us some concerns.

We would ask you to check your daughter's web use and if it does involve Formspring we'd be grateful if you would ensure that she has set up appropriate privacy settings. The information below is from a local authority circular we recently received in school, which we'd like to share with you.

What is Formspring?

Formspring (<http://www.formspring.me/>) is a social networking site which lets users set up a profile and enables them to post questions to other users. It can be integrated with other social networking sites such as Facebook and information sharing sites like Twitter, so these questions can appear on profiles set up on these sites. Like Facebook and Twitter, users are encouraged to gather 'friends' to follow them. One of the main differences from other social networking sites is that Formspring has given users the ability to send questions anonymously. This feature has been exploited by certain users to harass and cyberbully others.

How old do you have to be to use Formspring?

Like many social networking sites (e.g. Facebook) users under the age of thirteen should not use the site. If anyone is aware that someone under this age is using the site, they can be reported at privacy@formspring.me

Can I stop receiving anonymous questions?

When Formspring was first developed, one of the original ideas was to let people communicate anonymously, as they felt that people might share more information if they did not have to provide personal details to other users. The feature (which still exists) allows users to hide their name when sending questions to other users. However, recently it has been used by certain users to cyber bully and harass, so Formspring have made changes to their settings in order that users can choose not to receive anonymous questions.

You can find out how to set an account to reject anonymous messages on: <http://about.formspring.me/safety>.

We are planning another **Parental Advisory Group** meeting on the use of ICT in learning and support for parents on social network sites. This will take place on February 2nd 2012 in school at 7.00pm.

Parental
ADVISORY
GROUP



Future Events this Half Term

Thursday 17th November

Tuesday 22nd November

Thursday 1st December

Wednesday 7th December

Monday 5th – 13th December

Tuesday 13th December

Thursday 15th December

Friday 16th December

Akany Avoko **Grease Sing-a-long 7.00pm**

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Joint Orchestra Concert

Ski trip Information Evening 6.00pm

Senior Choir at Blackburn Cathedral

Year 11 Mock Exams

Junior Drama

Carol Service (We are holding two

Services this year and hope parents will

be able to join us - separate letter to follow

School closes at 2.55pm

