



Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS JUNE 2009

Dear Parents

☐ **Staffing News**

You already know of the retirement of a number of staff this Summer, Mr Ken Bates, Mrs Pat Davies and Mrs Marion Woolnough.

Mrs Linda Hickman – Mrs Hickman has worked as Data Officer at LGGS for 23 years. She will be much missed and we wish her a happy retirement.

Miss Janice Crossfield – Miss Crossfield is leaving LGGS after 18 years as Teacher in Charge of Spanish. She has been accepted on to a MA course in Translation Studies. We wish her all the best in her studies. Miss Crossfield will still maintain some links with LGGS through our primary languages teaching.

Miss Laura Chapman (Teacher of Spanish) – Miss Chapman is moving away from the area for personal reasons. We wish her well in her new post at Loughborough Grammar School.

Mrs Stella Pearce – Mrs Pearce has taught all our primary languages provision and General Studies Italian. She is leaving to move abroad.

Mrs Anke Dower – Mrs Dower has worked with us as a Language Assistant. She is leaving to take up a part time teaching post at LRGS.

We also thank *Mrs Becky Morris*, School Sports Coordinator (SSCo) and *Ms Emma Richards* (part time teacher of Art) for all their hard work this year at LGGS.

We have appointed **Mr Harry Yearnshire** as Head of History. Mr Yearnshire is currently Head of History at Heysham High School.

In Languages **Miss Katherine Whitehouse** joins us from Dallam School as Teacher In Charge of Spanish. **Mrs Luci-Anna Martin** joins us from Montgomery High School, Blackpool to teach Spanish and primary school Languages. Also in Languages **Mrs Barbara Bettsworth** has been promoted to Second in Languages with responsibility for all our Language College work. Congratulations to Mrs Bettsworth on her appointment.

Miss Amanda Broadfield has been promoted to Head of PE with effect from September and **Miss Leanne Sharples** will join us in September as Teacher of PE and School Sports Coordinator (SSCo). **Miss Sharples** is a former pupil and joins us from Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.

Mrs Cathy Miller has been appointed Assistant Head of KS3 with immediate effect. Mrs Suzanne Mason has started her maternity leave and hopes to be back with us for January 2010. In the meantime we welcome **Mrs Frances Clisham** who was Deputy Head at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and is covering Mrs Mason's classes.

Congratulations to **Miss Jo Gates** who has been promoted to Head of ICT. *Mrs Jean Conron*, Teacher of ICT, is leaving at the end of term. We are very grateful to Mrs Conron for all her hard work in covering the long term absence in ICT. In September, **Mr Michael Scott** who joins us as Assistant Headteacher, will be teaching GCSE ICT alongside Miss Gates.

As you will gather there are a large number of staffing changes. However we are fortunate at LGGs in that we are able to attract high quality applicants and we will be fully staffed for the next academic year.

❑ **Annual Institute of Biology Quiz**

LGGs recently entered a team into the annual Institute of Biology quiz. This annual event is held at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in Preston and features top school scientists from across the North West of Britain. This year 25 top schools were entered including Independents, Grammars and Sixth form colleges and competed for the coveted prize of a £500 microscope, a set of high quality microscope lenses, a set of 100 prepared slides and a selection of books. Once again LGGs girls walked away with the top prize. This is the third year in a row that LGGs have won this competition and the team took particular pleasure in beating Manchester Boys Grammar into second place.

The Organisers commented on “the excellent knowledge and understanding displayed by the team and how effectively they worked as a team.” “They worked calmly under pressure of time and challenging questions and are a credit to your school.”

Well done to our winning Year 12 team: A Borissova, A Wild, A Holden and J Chauhan

❑ **Pupil and Student Achievement**

Congratulations to:

S Molloy Year 12 – S Molloy was short listed in the Corpus Christi, University of Cambridge English Essay Competition, representing a considerable achievement.

R Bates – Well done to R Bates in Year 12 who gained a place in the finals of Miss Dance, a prestigious national dance competition.

K Lavelle – Congratulations to *K Lavelle* in Year 11 who has been selected to be one of the top 30 Young Hockey Umpires in the country.

A Sainsbury (Year 13), *E Pinfield-Sunderland* (Year 10) and *D Whalley* (Year 10) who will be performing at the Cottesloe National Theatre in July. They are members of the successful Dukes Senior Youth Theatre and will be performing ‘The Things She Sees’ by Ben Power as part of the National Theatre’s New Connections series.

❑ **2009 Biology Challenge**

LGGs girls once again proved successful beating thousands of students from across the country to win coveted certificates in the 2009 Biology Challenge which is the junior version of the British Biology Olympiad. The girls had to answer a battery of multiple choice questions on a range of Biology topics testing their knowledge and understanding of contemporary Biology as well as Science in the news.

Award winners included:

Gold: J Hurry, A Branford
Silver: I Mechie, R Slee, G Lekwuwa, N Kotonya
Bronze: C Farey, K Browne, M Giles, R Paracha

❑ **Visit by Ben Wallace MP**

Year 9 enjoyed the opportunity to discuss current affairs and raise their own interests and issues with local MP Ben Wallace when he visited LGGS in May. The visit fitted in well with their Citizenship studies and their work on local government and the British Constitution. Each form made a presentation to Mr Wallace on a diverse range of interests which included attitudes to young people and provision of bridle paths. Mr Wallace also took questions from the Year 9 pupils and he was very impressed with their enthusiasm and interest in political issues.

❑ **Lancashire Mathematics Challenge**

In this major County competition in which all Lancashire Schools participate, regional heats are held and the winner of each heat goes through to the county final. The LGGS team comprised of: H Browne (7J), G Gibson (7K), H Ockenden (7L) and C Xu (7M).

Despite intense competition from LRGS and Ripley, the LGGS team came first in a regional heat which the organisers described as 'very close'. All girls won individual trophies and tokens.

❑ **Lancashire Mathematics Challenge County Final Winners**

Our team attended the final, held at the Woodlands Centre, Chorley. The team consisted of: C Xu (7M), H Ockenden (7L), M Mai (7L) and A Watson (7M).

M Mai and A Watson replaced two members who were away on a school trip to France. As all schools in Lancashire take part in this competition, the other nine schools were all regional winners. The tasks set are a combination of team work and an individual round, and high scoring in each round is necessary in order to get into the top three. The competition is very demanding and challenging and LGGS battled with two other grammar schools as well as other stiff opposition to win the competition and become county champions. The event is sponsored by Lancashire County Developments Limited and gave the four team members individual trophies and book tokens as well as a cup for the school and £500 to spend on ICT.

This is a fantastic achievement. Well done to our Year 7 Mathematicians.

❑ **Junior Maths Challenge**

Once again, the school entered this national competition, centrally administered by the School of Mathematics at Leeds University. It is aimed primarily at Year 8 with all of this year group at LGGS being entered, along with about half of Year 7. Nationally, over 235,000 entries were registered and this presents a formidable challenge for the organisers to mark, then allocate awards in such a short time scale. Achieving high scores is very challenging as with the later questions you lose marks if you get them wrong! It was another excellent year of results for LGGS with record amounts of certificates being awarded:

	Gold Certificates	Silver Certificates	Bronze Certificates
Year 8	17	28	35
Year 7	8	11	14

Special mention must be made of the eight girls in Year 7 who achieved gold certificates one year earlier than intended. Those girls were: C Xu, H Ockenden, H Browne, H Mundy, M Mai, K Hurry, M Packwood and E Mason.

The organisers offer further prizes for the top 500-1000 candidates in the country, by asking them to undertake a gruelling 2 hour written paper. Two of our girls were asked to do this exam. It is more remarkable that, whilst they were the two highest scorers in LGGS, both girls were from Year 7. Both C Xu and H Ockenden had Junior Maths Challenge scores of over 100 (108 and 103 respectively), and in the pressure of a tough 1 hour challenge along with

"negative marking" it is a wonderful achievement. Both girls have now sat this exam and we wish them every success.

Inter-schools Swimming Gala

Well done to all girls who took part in the Inter Schools Swimming Gala on June 3rd. Our Year 7 team finished 2nd and the Year 8 and 9 teams finished 3rd. Many congratulations to the Year 10 team composed of: L Green, S Rawlinson, I Rawlinson, R Harvey who finished joint 1st with Ripley

Lancaster and District Athletics Team Selections

The following girls have been selected to represent the Lancaster and District Athletics team at the Lancashire Schools' Athletic Championships in June. This was due to their success at the District trials.

R Bates	H Bateson	S Fletcher	S Hodgson
A Jarman	K Lavelle	M Meju	P Obale
J Tynan	L Webster		

The Diana Award – L Brown

I am delighted that L Brown (Year 12) has successfully gained the Diana Award. We nominated L Brown for her work in raising money for Oxfam through Oxjam and her involvement in Amnesty International. The Diana Award assessors felt that she was an excellent role model and that the nomination had the 'wow' factor that they were looking for. She will receive her award at a ceremony in London in July.

Jaleo – Flamenco Evening - 9th June

LGGS took on a Spanish flavour in preparation for our visit from 'Jaleo', a flamenco group from Seville. The evening was a fantastic mixture of dancing, singing and guitar playing. Thanks to Mrs Tozer for organising the concert and the MFL department for ensuring the event was marked with a suitably Spanish flavour. Special thanks to Year 10 girls who helped organise the event. Their presence on the evening certainly contributed to a very special, wonderful atmosphere. Jaleo said it was one their most enjoyable performances in 22 years.

News from the Dining Room

LGGS Dining Room is open to all parents in the week beginning 29th June.

If you would like an opportunity to sample the meals at LGGS, just come along for 12.15 on any day of this week. Please sign in at Reception.

We have introduced a pre-ordering system for sandwiches, fruit etc. The girls pre-order before break and then simply pick up their bag containing their food at lunchtime. This means they do not have to queue and is especially useful for girls taking part in lunchtime activities.

Year 7 History and Art Project

Year 7 have been working hard on the new History/Art cross curricular project. They are producing a banner based on medieval lettering and life in The Middle Ages. Girls spent a day working with local artist Karen Lloyd and learning new techniques such as felting. The banner will be displayed in the library corridor.

❑ **National Youth Theatre Successes**

It is cause for celebration when one student gains a place with the prestigious National Youth Theatre. This year we were delighted to find out that five students had successfully won places, following auditions in February.

Competition for places was even greater this year with over 4000 students auditioning for 750 places.

A Aitchison (Year 13), L Weber (Year 13) and L Leech (Year 12) will be taking up places at the NYT Senior course this summer while S Allen (Year 10) and E Jarman (Year 10) will join the Junior course held in Easter 2010.

❑ **International Week**

As this Newsletter goes home we are enjoying International Week in school. Monday lunchtime saw a wonderful range of food stalls as part of our food tasting Around The World event. Tuesday is workshop day with language taster sessions, many dance events, song writing, calligraphy and boules to name a few! For the rest of the week there are opportunities to see Cinderella in French, foreign films and a show case final. Thank you to the parents who have supported us with the food tasting and to everyone else who is involved in the week and special thanks to Miss Chapman, Mrs Waller-Sargent and Mrs Harwood for all their work in organising such an impressive programme.

❑ **Morrison's Let's Grow Vouchers**

We are collecting vouchers for the Let's Grow scheme again. Please send you vouchers into school. We were able to buy a water tub, cold frame and tools last time so your vouchers were well used.

❑ **Lancashire Book of the Year 2009**

Saturday 20th June 2009 saw the culmination of all the hard work and enthusiasm from our Year 9 throughout the judging process of this prestigious award. Sophie McKenzie's exciting book BLOOD TIES was the eventual very popular winner, with JUST HENRY by Michelle Magorian and THE TRAP by Sarah Wray as runners up.

As a group the response to this daunting reading challenge has been amazing with girls reading far more titles than could have been imagined, not to mention all the fantastic reviews written, many of which are featured in the glossy brochure to be circulated around all Lancashire Schools as well as book sellers and publishing houses.

C Farey (9J) and E Shaw (9M) represented LGGS on the final judging panel and were guests at County Hall, Preston to see Sophie McKenzie receive her prize and to receive a certificate and 'goody bag' full of books themselves. A and R Snalem, both of 9M also received books and a certificate for being singled out as 'Star Readers'.

As well as Sophie, several other authors from the short list attended this event, taking time throughout the morning to chat to students about their work, making this a truly memorable day.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed this whole experience and hopefully they will continue to be enthusiasts and ambassadors for books and reading.

Congratulations and well done Year 9! Thanks to Mrs Kathy Edge, LGGS Librarian, for her work in organising the events in school.

❑ **Drama and Theatre Showcase Evenings, The Studio – 7.00pm**

Year 13 students will be performing their examination pieces on 30th June followed by the GCSE Drama group. Parents and friends are welcome. On 9th July the Year 12 A level group will showcase their examination pieces. Again, parents and friends are most welcome to join us.

❑ **Year 10 Health Day – Tuesday 30th June**

As part of their health education day Year 10 pupils will work with the 'Choose Life' programme on drugs education. This is a programme run through HMP Liverpool and involves prisoners talking about their rehabilitation. The pupils will also be looking at body image which includes discussions about make up, piercings and body art. If you wish to find out more about the programme please contact Miss Sue Hope, Coordinator of Personal Wellbeing.

❑ **The Extended Project Qualification**

In May, twenty Year 12 students submitted the first extended projects from LGGS. The EPQ is a stand alone qualification that is worth half an A2 and as such the A* grade can be awarded. Each student has had to carry out extensive research on a topic of their choice and then complete a 5000 word essay or an equivalent piece, as well as a final presentation. The titles chosen covered areas as diverse as 'Is war good for Medicine?', 'How science-fiction becomes science fact' and 'Should Sharia law become integrated with UK law?' Other titles looked at virtue ethics, obesity in dogs, homeopathy, music therapy, education reforms in Victorian times and the Indian economy. The fact that the students have a free range in what they can study makes it a very exciting project.

Many of the students who have completed the extended project have reflected very positively on the large number of skills that they have acquired while undertaking the work. It is also becoming highly regarded by universities as this comment shows from Geoff Parks, Director of Admissions at Cambridge University, who said "The potential benefits are enormous. Opportunities to get deeply involved in a subject that interests you, to develop research skills, to pull together different areas of the other subjects you are studying and to develop extended writing skills will all be enormously valuable preparation for going to university. I would strongly encourage students to do an extended project whichever university they want to go to."

We now have a further fifty Year 12 students expressing a very keen interest in completing an EPQ over the summer ready for submission in November 2009.

❑ **Family Learning in Psychology**

Following the popularity of previous evening classes in Psychology, the Department is offering a new evening course in 2009-10. This is designed for people who have an interest in psychology but who do not wish to take a formal examination. The course will have an applied approach and include some practical work. Topics will include, for example, human memory, perception, non-verbal communication, relationships, cognitive effects of brain damage, face recognition, psychological disorder (e.g. schizophrenia) and psychological research methods.

The course is open to students and parents of students in Years 10 and 11. Due to the practical element, the number of places available is limited to 16, however, as demand is expected to be high, the classes will be repeated in the spring and summer terms.

A small charge of £5.00 per person is required to cover resources. Please make cheques payable to LGGS with the *name of your daughter on the back*. Please fill in the reply slip at

the end of the newsletter and return to Reception by Friday 10th July 2009 *in a sealed envelope.*

Friends' Fun Run

The recent 5K Fun Run organised by the Friends was well attended with 83 runners (including Kasper the dog) taking part. To read the results or to see the photos of the event, go to the school website www.lggs.org.uk. Just over £300 will be donated to the sports department to buy equipment for the benefit of the girls. Huge thanks must go to Dawn Gill for organising the event, to the runners for taking part and to all the helpers - parents, friends, students and staff - for ensuring that the event ran smoothly.

Monkhouse Schoolwear

10% off LGGs distinctive items when ordering online (www.monkhouse.com) and entering the discount code LGGs02.

Future Events this Half Term

Thursday 2nd July – Open Evening for Year 5 parents and pupils.

Tuesday afternoon 7th July – *Sports Day* - All parents and grandparents are welcome to join us at the sports field.

Tuesday 14th July – *Music Festival all day followed by Evening Concert* - This is always the busiest evening of the year. We will be issuing a separate letter to parents about arrangements for the evening.

End of Term – Wednesday 15th July 2.55pm
School Re-opens Tuesday 1st September (Year 7 and Year 12 ONLY)
Wednesday 2nd September (rest of school)

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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Please return reply slip to Mrs Aitken (Reception) by Friday 10th July 2009

LANCASTER GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FAMILY LEARNING IN PSYCHOLOGY

I / We would like to enrol for Family Learning in Psychology and enclose a cheque for £_____ (£5 per person):

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name _____

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name of Daughter: _____

Form: _____