



Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS March 2009

Dear Parents

☐ Staffing News

- This summer we will be wishing Mr Ken Bates a happy retirement. Mr Bates has been Deputy Head at LGGS since 1991, having been appointed to the school as Head of Mathematics in 1987. He has contributed greatly to the success of LGGS. He has played an invaluable role in improving the buildings and accommodation at the school. Our specialist status as a Leading Edge School and Language College owe much to his hard work. His knowledge of curriculum issues and his skills as a timetabler have been a tremendous asset to our Senior Leadership Team.
- I am pleased to announce that the Governors have appointed Miss Sarah Bellin, currently Director of Teaching & Learning and Head of PE at LGGS, to the post of Deputy Head with effect from September 2009.

☐ Future Events

- **Guys & Dolls: Tuesday 17th March-Friday 20th March** - Tickets are on sale for the joint LRGS and LGGS musical "Guys and Dolls". This will be staged at The Grand Theatre, Lancaster. Tickets are available from LGGS Reception - £9 adults, £6 concessions. This will be a very popular show so please buy your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.
- **Women's Aid Charity Evening: Thursday 26th March, 7.00pm** - All mothers and daughters, aunts, sisters, etc, are welcome to join us for an evening of workshops, recycled fashion and pampering. This evening is being organised by a group of Year 12 students as part of their work with Lancaster University volunteers.
- **Year 11 Learning to Learn workshop: Tuesday 31st March 2009, 6.30pm** - On Tuesday 31st March we are inviting all Year 11 pupils and parents to join us for an enjoyable and informative evening learning how to learn for exams. Girls, this will be your opportunity to explain to your parents why you NEED music on while you study. Parents, this will give you an opportunity to learn what we teach the girls about techniques for learning to maximise their exam performance. The evening will start at 6.30 and finish at 8.30. It will be interactive and should be fun. We hope that girls will leave knowing much more about revision techniques to put into practice over the weeks leading up to their exams and that parents will know more about how to support their daughters through the stresses of exams.
- **Musical Evening: Thursday 2nd April, 7.00pm** - An opportunity to hear the combined orchestra, the junior choir, klango, the big band and more. Venue - School Hall. £2 admission for adults.
- **Showcase of Talents: Wednesday 22nd April, 7.00pm** - A follow on from our popular Talent Show last year. A fantastic opportunity to see the talents of LGGS pupils. This is also a fund-raising event for the Tap Fund.

□ Events in School

- **Public Speaking Competition** - The overall winners were Rendsburg in a very closely contested competition. Thank you to the adjudicator, Dr Thorn of LRGS. The winners from each year were:
C Xu, 7M (Lublin) J Padfield, 8L (Rendsburg)
E Dodd 9J Aalborg S Rawlinson, 10M (Lublin)
- **Year 10 Health and Study Skills Day** - Year 10 recently enjoyed a Health morning with sessions run by the Parenting and Pregnancy Service, our school nurse, Anita Sloane, and Hope UK (looking at the danger of binge-drinking). The girls also produced health related projects of their own including an upbeat song on helping a friend stop drinking. The pupils then spent the afternoon looking at thinking maps and how to apply them to any subject. As one girl commented, "I liked learning the maps and I will definitely use them. They are really useful and I think they will help me in studying." Thanks to Miss Hope and Mrs Sandbach for their hard work in organising the day.
- **Holocaust Memorial Day** - Miss Allen's assembly on the Holocaust invited comments from members of the school in response to the statement "the lesson of history should be that we appreciate the sanctity of human life."

This thoughtful response is from a Year 11 pupil: *"I think that your assembly was very thought provoking and I think that it is important for everyone to realise how lucky we are to live in such a peaceful society and go to school, when not that long ago (ie, WW1 and 2) it would not have been possible. I also think that it is important for people to realise how many people there are out in the world who are still suffering, not just because of global events, but because their government will not help. The peaceful world which we live in, in my opinion, sometimes feels like that it is just around Lancaster and our school. There is so much hurt in the world, with people suffering unnecessarily. There are good people who do nothing but help others, and yet they cannot enjoy a full life, whilst there are those whose aim is to destroy and cause suffering and yet they live. At times, I feel that there is no justice."*

Connected to Holocaust Memorial Day was the visit by Mr Barski, grandfather of a Year 11 LGGGS pupil. Mr Barski described growing up as a child in Nazi occupied, Poland and becoming part of the Polish resistance movement.

- **Higher Education Links:**

Visit by Queen's University, Belfast - January 2009 - We were pleased to welcome two representatives from Queen's who talked to Year 12 A level English students and a group of Year 11 students about the opportunities offered by Queen's and the benefits of studying English at degree level.

Visit by Oxford University Student Recruitment Team - February 2009 - Over 130 Year 11 and 12 LGGGS students and parents enjoyed a lively introduction to Oxford University presented by Gareth Duxbury of the Student Recruitment Team. Gareth outlined what studying at Oxford involves, the wealth of extra-curricular and, very importantly, what students need to do to improve their chances of an offer if they wish to apply to Oxford.

Future Events

- LRGS Medical Careers Evening, 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th March, for Years 10 and above interested in a career in medicine.
- Visit by 40 Year 12 students to the Oxbridge Admissions Conference - 23rd March.
- Visit by University of Glasgow to LGGGS - 24th March (TBC).
- All Year 12 students to attend the UCAS Conference at Lancaster University - 26th March.
- Visit by University of Cumbria - 24th April.

□ Student Successes

Gifted and Talented Dance Workshop

On Monday 23rd February 2009, the following girls were selected to participate in a one-day Street Dance Workshop held at Ludus Dance, Lancaster:

E Danson	9J	S Allen	10J
E Fox	9K	H Buckley	10J
I Mechie	9L	A Chambers	10J
E Taylor	9M	B Kay	10J
P Walkden	9M		
L Weaver de Araujo	9M		
A Winder	9M		

The workshop was organised by Lancaster University's Gifted and Talented Programme and subsidised by the Lancaster School Sports Partnership. All the girls performed extremely well and were a credit to the school. They will perform their finished dance in assemblies at school.

R Southwell, Year 13

R Southwell's excellent performance in the first round of the prestigious British Biology Olympiad means that she is now through to the second round. We wish her well for the finals in April.

Award in Food Safety in Catering

Congratulations to the following students passed the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering in December 2008.

C Barnes	A Carty
T Atkinson	G Baldwin
S Eccles	A Fleet
S Lees	G Lekwuwa
P Madlambudzi	L Murphy
R Myerscough	I Robinson
M Smith	F Suleman
A Thornton	

Orienteering Success - Spring Term

K and Z Harding (11K and 9K) were selected to represent England at the annual Interland Orienteering Competition, held this year in SE England near Watford. Running against U17 girls from Belgium and the Netherlands, K Harding obtained 1st position, and Z Harding 3rd, and were part of an all-England podium in this age class.

LGGS pupils were also successful in the British Orienteering Championships in the New Forest. Many congratulations to H Ockenden (Year 7) who came 1st in the under-12 group, K Harding won Bronze and Z Harding came 5th in the Girls under-16 age class.

Both K & Z Harding have also been selected to run for England Schools at the World Schools Orienteering Championships, which are to be held in Madrid during the Easter holidays.

Lancashire County Council Young Citizen of the Month

Many congratulations to L Brown (Year 12) who has been awarded Young Citizen of the Month by Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Evening Post. We nominated her for her fundraising activities for Oxfam and her work for Amnesty as mentioned in the November newsletter.

Salter's Chemistry Camp

The following four Year 10 pupils have been successful in their application to participate in a Salter's Chemistry Camp. These are residential activity camps held at a variety of universities across the country. It involves staying in student rooms and completing Chemistry based activities within university laboratories. There are also social activities arranged for the pupils.

D Ganesh - University of Leeds
E Kane - University of Nottingham
M Smith - University of Manchester
H Spencer - University of St Andrews

Also, four girls have been selected from Year 7 science club to accompany Miss Hope on a Festival of Chemistry, again organised by Salters. This take place in June at the University of Liverpool. There were only four places available and they were hotly contested with many science club participants filling in the application form. It was a hard decision but the following girls were successful:

H Browne 7J
L Gardner 7K
J McCracken 7L
C Xu 7M

Well done to all the pupils involved.

Citizenship Foundation - Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition

The LGGS team competed on Saturday 7th March in the regional round of the Magistrates' competition. The team gave excellent performances. The defence lawyer team of E Dodd and R Egerton won their case against the eventual winners, St Mary's RC School. E Yohn was a believable defendant and R Leak was the other defence witness who made out that it was a simple accident. E Hetherington was a very efficient usher in that round. Our prosecution team of lawyers, C Farey and M Golash also won their round against Southlands School. The latter put up a strong defence and it needed the prosecution witnesses, K Johnes and S Taylor with their credible testimonies to ensure that the defendant was found guilty. The team was assisted by the confident legal adviser, played by C Cole. In both cases the magistrates were ably played by L Dobson, S Richards and E Ross. There are two other competitions associated with the Magistrates Court competition. The first one, a court reporter competition requires a 250 worded newspaper style report of one round and that has been entered by H Thompson and L Turnbull. The other competition is for a court artist and that has been entered by S Hallam. We have been ably supported by several sixth formers and R Graham and A Marshall came to support us on the day. Thanks also to family supporters, Mrs Dobson and Mr Lawson.

Year 8 English Project with the Midland Hotel

As part of their 'Local Legends' Literature project, Year 8 pupils at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School embraced the opportunity to create sonnet poems based on the Eric Gill bas-relief mural in the Midland Hotel's foyer. In the style of the Cumbrian poet, William Wordsworth, pupils crafted poems which captured the story of Nausicaa welcoming the ship-wrecked Odysseus ashore; an image chosen to represent the hotel's hospitality. In this way, the links between art, literature and classical myths were made by the pupils themselves, and they were very proud of the final results! The girls' poems will be read to visitors during their tour of the Midland Hotel and their work will be available for guests to read at their leisure. Thanks to the staff at the Midland Hotel for their encouragement in, and welcome receipt of, the pupils' work.

□ **Lancashire Children's Book Of The Year Shortlist**

We have been fortunate this year to be selected as one of the eleven Lancashire Schools to be involved in the judging of the Lancashire Children's Book of the Year award. Year 9 has been busy reading and voting for their favourite books. On Tuesday 3rd March C Farey and E Shaw from Year 9, together with representatives from the other Lancashire schools involved, attended the next 'round' of the judging process for the Lancashire Children's Book of The Year award. The meeting was held at County Hall, Preston and was chaired by the acclaimed author, Adele Geras. Adele, who has written over 90 children's books herself, discussed favourite reads with the students and offered advice on what to look out for when judging the winning author. After a delicious lunch the final shortlist of ten was unveiled which the girls must now read and judge before the next meeting in May.

☐ Tap Fund

Many thanks to H Dawson, Year 13, who has donated £150 (from her bursary which she was awarded last year) to the Tap Fund. H Dawson was awarded the bursary when she won the regional round of the Lion's Club Young Ambassador of the 21st Century Award.

☐ Information for Parents

Uniform Skirts

We are aware that there have been problems for some of our girls buying skirts which are long enough, especially when they are tall and slim. Our two uniform stockists have been trying to find a solution and we have now found suppliers who can offer longer skirts. Therefore in addition to the Banner skirt and the Monkhouse skirt we can now approve another skirt Stag/Blue Max 177. The advantage of this style is that longer lengths can be made to order. Both Monkhouse in Preston and Mike's Sports World in Garstang have been authorised by the school to stock this skirt. Mike's Sports World in Garstang have specially ordered 24" and 26" lengths to have as standard stock of this new skirt. If you still have a problem with finding the right size you can have an individual skirt made in this style, but you are advised to order well in advance as individual orders will need to be made especially for your daughter and can take up to 6 weeks.

Cashless Catering

Our new cashless system has been introduced very smoothly. May I respectfully remind parents that they can make a payment by cheque. This avoids your daughter having to bring larger sums of money into school. We do not have change in school so please ensure, if you are still paying in cash, that your daughter has sufficient change for any bus fares, etc.

Young, Gifted and Talented

I would like to draw parents' attention to the YG&T website, www.ygt.dcsf.gov.uk. This government-backed website has many resources for students and parents, as well as information about YG&T events. Students can register themselves on the website.

International Food Day

The Annual International Fair at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School is to be held on Monday 22nd - Friday 26th June 2009. This is an excellent opportunity for the students to learn about languages, costumes, traditions, cultures and good from around the world. Every year, as part of the International Fair week, we hold an extremely popular "Foods from Around the World" Day and this year it will be on Monday 22nd June 2009 from 12.15pm - 1.15pm in the School Main Hall and Centenary Hall.

The "Foods from Around the World" Day gives our students the opportunity to taste food from other cultures and encourage them to participate and share their cultures with the other students. We are asking students to participate in this food-tasting event by providing some authentic food from their own culture, to display and share with others. Your daughter may wish to help a friend with foods from their country even though she is not of that nationality and this will be greatly appreciated. Some of our students also offer to research a country or culture not represented in our school and this is another great way of learning about foods from around the world. We can arrange for your expenses to be reimbursed - just keep a note of any costs.

As you already know, LGGS has been selected as the only school in Lancashire to become a Flagship School for the Food for Life Partnership. This "Foods from Around the World" Day is always a fantastic opportunity to involve the community in the life of the school and this is one area of focus for the FFLP.

So, if any parents have an interest in foods from around the world or is involved with a restaurant or food retailer and is willing to participate themselves, then please email Mrs Harwood at j.harwood@lggs.lancs.sch.uk as your help will be greatly appreciated.

Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers

Please could you collect the Active Kids vouchers when you shop in Sainsbury from now until June, as LGGS is collecting them to buy cooking equipment for the benefit of our pupils. Please encourage your relatives and friends to collect these vouchers as we can obtain excellent quality equipment free. There is a collection box in Reception so please ask your daughter to put the vouchers in it and the Food Focus Group will choose what to get with them. The more the better!

Get It Loud in Libraries

Stuart Parsons, the Get It Loud In Libraries Project Manager, visited LGGS to speak to Year 11 girls to promote GILIL and offer volunteering opportunities. The hope is that young people will take the major role in promoting and organising the events, making GILIL a genuine youth led project. The GILIL project promotes live music gigs in the library building, reflecting the experience that young people use libraries for music borrowing, more than any other media. This alcohol free venue caters for everyone from 9 to 90, although the majority of those attending are from the youth community. Media interest in the project has been extensive with publicity in local press as well as TV appearances, such as the One Show.

Girls from LGGS will develop school's link with Stuart and develop an in school publicity and promotion team. Other volunteering opportunities include marketing, researching and booking bands, promotion, press releases, photography and journalism and front of house responsibilities.

Volunteering work may be appropriate for accreditation towards the Arts award, D of E and for inclusion of CVs for job and university applications. The work will certainly be challenging, offer a great sense of achievement, not to mention fun and participation will earn free tickets to gigs!

□ **Year 8 Questionnaires**

Thank you to the Year 8 parents who completed evaluation questionnaires during the recent Year 8 Parents' Evening. In total we received 73 responses. The questionnaires show a very high level of parental satisfaction with LGGS.

- 100% of parents agreed that LGGS was a good school and were proud that their daughter attends it.
- 100% of parents felt that the school provided a safe environment.
- 100% of parents felt that the school provides an appropriate level of challenge.

We were also interested to find out parents' views on the 14-19 curriculum changes and the introduction of diplomas. 97% of parents wanted their daughter to study a curriculum made up of GCSEs and A levels rather than vocational diplomas and 99% wanted their daughter to study at LGGS rather than travel to other schools for diploma courses.

Some parents identified reporting as an area that they felt the school could develop. They expressed a desire for more frequent reports of their daughter's progress. We are currently looking to implement this through on-line reporting which should be in place nationally for September 2010.

Many parents were not aware of our new website. This is hosted on our old address (www.lggs.org.uk) and contains a lot of school news and useful information for parents.

Here is a selection of some comments from the questionnaires:

"I think the school does a great job in providing a good environment for learning and supporting the students"

"Great all round development of the girls."

"The merit and penalty point system is an excellent way of encouraging the girls to organise themselves."

“This school is fantastic. Well done to all staff and governors. No school is perfect but this school comes pretty close.”

☐ **Year 11 Reflections**

Year 11 have been reflecting on their five years at LGGS in their Personal Statements for their reports, as they reach the end of their GCSE courses. Below are two comments which I thought parents would appreciate:

“Over my 5 years at LGGS my love of the school and the calm atmosphere has only increased. Secondary school years are possibly the most important in shaping the character a person will be in later life. I think this school teaches and coaches girls to become really well-rounded individuals who are genuinely polite and friendly.”

“After 5 years at LGGS I feel like the girls here are all one big family. Teenage years are a time when people need lots of support from those around them and you can certainly feel that here; there are many ways of obtaining help if you have any sort of problem, eg, coursework clinic, girls’ group.”

☐ **Nuclear Industry Visit**

Eight Year 12 students were invited to attend a **'Routes into the Nuclear Industry'** career event held at Springfields Fuels Ltd, Preston on behalf of 'Young Generation Network'. The event included an overview of the nuclear industry, presentations from current graduates within the industry, who discussed their chosen route of academic study.

There were representatives from local Universities, the Decommissioning Authority, National Nuclear Lab, British Energy, Young Generation Network and various other companies who are involved in the nuclear industry. The event was followed by a tour of an operational Nuclear Plant giving the students the chance to get to grips with the necessary personal protective equipment.

☐ **Girls in Engineering Day**

On Friday 30th January 2009, Year 11 pupils who studied electronics were given the opportunity to attend the Girls into Engineering Day. In the morning we gathered in the Centenary Hall to listen to an introductory talk which provided an insight into engineering and what it involved. In listening to this talk I discovered how small the number of woman undertaking a career in engineering was. After this talk we were introduced to the people who would be giving us an insight into their careers throughout the day. It was nice to see the many familiar faces of the people who were former pupils at our school. Throughout the day we were split up into smaller groups and attended sessions on different aspects of engineering. It was helpful that many of these sessions were taken by former pupils, as it made it easy for many of us to relate to what they had to say. It was interesting to see what they had done at GCSE and A level and how their career aspects had changed throughout their time at LGGS. Throughout the day I also found out about the many different routes that can be taken in order to reach different stages and careers in engineering. Not only did we learn about careers in engineering but we were also given an insight into life at university, which was useful to pupils who were quite certain they would not be taking this career path.

The day as a whole gave me a fresh look into the career of engineering and I now have an alternative career path to consider for the future.

C Jesmont – 11K

In addition, throughout the day Year 8 pupils took part in a competition to make and race robotic horses. These pupils also attended the talks. The winners were:

8J K Bradfield, K Barnett and N Dower
8K A Jones and A Hampsey
8L G Nield and L Preece
8M A Ward and L Smith

With the overall winners being K Bradshaw, K Barnett and N Dower

Talks were given by

Former pupils

Lucy Pilkington – who graduated with an Honours degree in Systems Engineering, currently working at BAE Preston.

Kelly Spavin – who had left at the end of Year 11 to take up an apprenticeship with BAE and who has now completed her qualification.

Georgia Sandbach – who graduated with a Masters degree in Engineering and currently works in Software Engineering with CSR.

Juliet Summerfield – currently at Loughborough University, studying Automotive Engineering and sponsored by Toyota.

Amy Redman – currently at Edinburgh College of Art studying Architecture.

Sophie Jones – currently on a Year in Industry placement prior to attending Loughborough University to study engineering.

In addition we had Wendy Brown a member of the Women's Engineering Society, representatives from Lancaster University Engineering Department, Kate Lowe from Furmanite Ltd, Kendal, a Chemical Engineer and two other students currently on the Year in Industry programme, who will be attending Manchester and Liverpool universities to study Engineering in October. Thank you to Mrs Sandbach for her work in organising the day.

❑ **LGGS Barbados Hockey Tour**

On Friday 13th February around 100 Year 10 and 11 boys and girls attended a Valentine's Disco at Lancaster House Hotel. The event was a huge success and, along with the raffle, the team raised £165 for the LGGS Barbados Hockey Tour. Thank you to everybody who supported the event (and to A Chambers, K Abraham, A Bush and P Gibson for helping to organise it). The girls have also held a cake stall that raised £150.

We are still looking for sponsors for the kit and for businesses who would like to buy advertising in the tour brochure. Please contact Miss Broadfield at a.broadfield@lggs.lancs.sch.uk for further information.

❑ **Future Events this Half Term**

Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th March	Joint Schools' Musical "Guys & Dolls"
Sunday 22nd March	LGGS German Exchange students return French Exchange students arrive
Sunday 29th March	French Exchange students depart
Monday 30th March	Speech Day
Tuesday 31st March	Revision Masterclass for Year 11 pupils and parents
Thursday 2nd April	9J & 9M Geography Fieldtrip Music Recital
Friday 3rd April	School closes 2.55pm

Receipt of Newsletter

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

Yours sincerely

Jackie Cahalan

Headteacher