



Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS May 2009

Dear Parents

I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break. This term, of course, is dominated by exams. We wish our students well in the forthcoming exams. Special best wishes to the Upper Sixth as they prepare to leave LGGS. I asked some Sixth Formers to describe the memories they will take away with them.

I think it's safe to say that, as daunting as every new year at school feels at the beginning, it ends even quicker than the one before! However, you don't believe this until you reach the last few weeks of school, ever, and realise it doesn't feel so long ago that Mrs Ford was correcting your spelling of 'grammar' in your Year 9 SATS! The past 7 years at LGGS have been great, and I think, as is the case for most, being here has helped shape the person I am today. The atmosphere is still as friendly and welcoming as it was the first time I stepped through the door, and the teachers are still as lovely as ever! Special memories for me have got to be the ski trips (singing and acting out "heads, shoulders, knees and toes" down the slopes), D of E (who knew it could rain so much in one weekend?!), World Challenge to Madagascar (and finally realising how no one who visits Akany Avoko ever wants to leave!) and visiting China last October (and you thought buses in Lancaster got overcrowded!), and of course, who could forget, Senior Choir and Mr T! These are memories that will definitely go with me forever, along with many others, and the wonderful friends I've made along the way! So thank you so much to all the staff and girls who've made LGGS such an amazing place to be these past 7 years, and one piece of advice I would like to give to girls still at school is don't ever pass up on an opportunity that is given to you here at LGGS – many of them are once in a lifetime experiences that not many get, and ones that you will never forget!

R Dean

It seems impossible that it has been 7 years since I started at LGGS – the years have flown by without me really noticing, and suddenly we are only weeks away from finishing. I know I am ready to move on to University and explore new opportunities, but LGGS has been my life for so long it feels utterly strange to be talking about finishing for good. My first memories from Year 7 are of the Upper Sixth towering over us as we attempted to find our way around school, clutching our maps. I've finally learnt my way around school – I know it like the back of my hand - and everyone else still towers over me, but I've matured in many ways. I have learnt so much whilst I've been at school, both in and out of lessons. The opportunities available to me at LGGS have been many and fantastic, from the School Chronicle to Ski Trip, and from D of E Awards to our recent fieldtrip to Iceland, I have been able to involve myself fully in school, and enjoyed myself here all the more for it - I cannot encourage everyone enough to make the most of every trip available to them. Some of my fondest memories come from trips with friends and teachers, whether skiing with Mrs Richardson or sharing gossip with Mrs Shaw, it is definitely the people that make LGGS the amazing place it is. I've made friends I know I'll have for the rest of my life, and I leave LGGS with 7 years worth of fantastic memories. I want to take this opportunity to thank LGGS, especially all my amazing teachers, for all the help and support they have always been willing to give – it makes the difference between just turning up for school every day and waking up looking forward to school, as I have always done.

H Dawson

I will always treasure my 7 years spent here at LGGS. I remember feeling so small and lost on my first day; not knowing the other girls on the train and not being able to find Room 36. I have now made life-long friends in these girls and I don't feel lost anymore. In fact, I feel very much at home at LGGS. On reflection, I realise how much I've developed thanks to this school. It is here that I discovered my passion for languages and decided this is what I want to focus on in the future. It is here that I was offered the fantastic opportunity to study Mandarin Chinese in Year 12 General Studies and also to participate in a China Study Visit, which consequently led to my decision to study French, German and Chinese at university. One of my proudest moments was probably learning I was to become Perpignan House Captain and through this I have developed my confidence, organisation skills and inter-personal skills enormously. My happiest moments are the silly little things that happen every day in form, with friends, or something that a teacher does! I'm going to miss the people I have met at LGGS, from Year 7 pupils to teachers, very much and am thankful for all the opportunities that are on offer here to every individual.

K Fishwick

Even though we have both only been here for two years, we feel as if we have fully integrated into LGGS life. Our memories along the way will stay with us as we journey into the next chapter of our lives, such as the Iceland 09 trip, with the 'Geoggers crew!' (Aisling) and being part of the Lublin House (Kay). Despite the hard work A levels bring, LGGS has brought many laughs and good times that have prepared us for the future.

A Keating and K Nicholls

☐ **Staffing News**

This summer sees the retirement of a number of key staff who have contributed greatly to the success of LGGS over the years. I have already mentioned Mr Ken Bates's retirement in my last newsletter.

- Mrs Marion Woolnough is retiring after 22 years of teaching History. Many generations of LGGS girls will thank her for the enthusiasm and dedication with which she has taught them.
- Mrs Pat Davies is also retiring after 22 years' service at LGGS. As Assistant Head and Head of Sixth Form Mrs Davies has very successfully supported our LGGS Sixth Formers as well as being a first class teacher.

Both teachers will be much missed but I am delighted that they will continue their link with LGGS through some part time teaching.

- We have decided to make two new Joint Head of Sixth Form appointments - Mrs Kerry Shaw and Miss Katy Allen. Mrs Shaw will take over the Upper Sixth in September and Miss Allen will be responsible for the new Lower Sixth.

☐ **School Leaders 2009-2010**

As the Upper Sixth prepare to take their A level examinations, we congratulate our new Sixth Form leaders:

Head Girl	S Easterby-Smith	
Deputy Head Girls	R Graham and E Ramsey	
Assistant Head Girl (The Arts)	A Clark	
Assistant Head Girl (Sixth Form Issues)	E Taylor	
Student Observer	L Brown	
Games Captain	C Carter	
Deputy Games Captain	R Bates	
House Captains	J Chauhan	Aalborg
	S Smith	Lublin
	V Golash	Perpignan
	G Smith	Rendsburg

Many more of our Sixth Formers have the opportunity to contribute to school life through a variety of ways, including prefects, running clubs and mentoring younger girls. Our Sixth Formers add so much to the school and are able to gain relevant experience and skills in doing so.

❑ **Fun Run - Thursday 7th May 2009 at 6.30pm**

A reminder that our Fun Run, organised by the Friends, takes place on Thursday 7th May at 6.30pm. If you have not already returned your entry form, you can turn up on the night or pre-register using the form on our website - www.lggs.org.uk.

❑ **Careers Convention 2010**

We hold a Careers Convention every three years, to which all students from Year 9 upwards are invited to attend, along with their parents. Our next one is scheduled for the Spring term of 2010 and we are now starting to update our database of speakers. I know that there is a wealth of expertise and experience amongst our parents which could be of huge benefit to our students and we would be very grateful for any offers of help. If you feel you may be able to make an input, please contact Mrs Houghton by email (k.houghton@lggs.lancs.sch.uk), letter or telephone.

❑ **Guys & Dolls**

It may seem a long time ago now but I am sure many of you enjoyed the LRGS/LGGS Joint Musical, Guys & Dolls. This high quality production very effectively showcased the talents of so many young people. Congratulations to everybody involved in the musical.

❑ **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - Recent Successes**

Congratulations to the following girls:

• **Bronze**

Year 13 B McDade

Year 12 H Martlew, E Sullivan

Year 11 A Cooper-Dunn, C Dutton, E Granger, K Harding, E Ingram, C Jesmont, G Leamy, K Letheren, S Macari, R Miller, H Smith

• **Silver**

Old Girls N North, E Wignall

Year 13 R Dean

Year 12 R Graham, S Molloy, C Summerfield, A Wild

• **Gold**

Year 13 R Brand, R Eardley, H Dawson, K Fishwick

A special mention to our four gold level students as it is a noteworthy achievement to complete Gold before the end of Year 13.

❑ **Rotary Challenge - Lancaster and District Technology Competitions**

Congratulations to our winning Key Stage 3 team - L Griffith, Z Harding, E Shaw and E Dodd.

Our Intermediate Team also came first in this competition which involved them having to design and build equipment which launched an egg through a hoop. The team consisted of S Entwisle, N Derrick, B Winstanley and A Pearson.

Well done to our Sixth Form team who came second - V Elton, N Dunkeld, L Davies and N Williams.

☐ Parental Information

School Dining Room Menus

Parents may be aware that new nutritional standards are to be implemented from September 2009. We are currently trialling some new menus in school in preparation for September. Each menu consists of a meal deal, costing between £1.85 and £2.25. The Meal Deals consist of a nutritious main course, sandwich or jacket potato (with filling) and a hot sweet, biscuit or fruit. We are posting the menus on our website (in the Food for Life Partnership section) so that parents can see what is available. Parents who require more information about what their daughter is eating in school can contact Heather McAleese, our Catering Manager, through the school email (lggs@lggs.lancs.sch.uk).

Thefts

Unfortunately, we have had some thefts in school recently with money and other possessions taken from purses. May I respectfully ask parents to help the school by ensuring their daughters do not bring large amounts of cash into school, but to use cheques. If your daughter has to bring cash into school, she can go to the Bursar's office at the start of school and ask for the money to be stored in the safe.

Following on from these thefts, we have had to involve the police and are now working closely with them to stop the thefts. I feel I must inform you that we have agreed with the police that we will prosecute if there are any more thefts.

☐ Congratulations

- Congratulations to M Foster (Year 8) who has been selected for the U13 and U15 County Girls' Cricket team.
- Congratulations to Z and K Harding who recently competed in the ISF Orienteering School Championships in Spain. Both girls finished in the top ten, with K Harding winning a bronze medal for her team and Z Harding won a gold for Junior girls.
- Congratulations to H Messer in the Upper Sixth who has gained a scholarship to Aberystwyth University to read Politics and International Relationships. Hannah performed at such a high level in the University's scholarship exams that she now has an unconditional offer from Aberystwyth and will receive a bursary while she is studying.

☐ Events in School

Foreign Visits

Italy - this Easter, LGGS pupils and staff enjoyed a week skiing in Aosta, Italy, in almost perfect conditions. Staff at the hotel were very complimentary about the behaviour and attitude of our girls.

Iceland – Twenty Six Sixth Form Geographers, Mr Haslam, Mrs Shaw and Ms Fitch spent 5 days in Iceland over Easter. The students learnt about glaciation and volcanoes on their Iceland fieldtrip as well as having lots of fun and enjoying whale watching.

Hungary - Mr Strachan and Mrs Street accompanied four Sixth Form students (Lauren Barnes, Grace Xia, Caitlin Brennan, Caitlin Fielding) on the Comenius Project to Hungary. Thank you to Afsara Ahmmed for her help with all the preparations. Here is C Brennan's account of the project.

This year's meeting was held in Szolnok, Hungary, with participants from Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovenia and, of course, the UK. The aim for the project is to compare ways of teaching Science across Europe and we chose to present a lesson on the reactivity series. However, the presentations formed a very small part of the visit. It was mostly an opportunity to sample Hungarian life, living with a Hungarian family and exploring the area. Among the activities was a tour of Hungary's biggest helicopter base. We were lucky that Szolnok was

close to the capital of Hungary, Budapest. We spent a day exploring the capital, visiting the Houses of Parliament and a large interactive science centre along with other important monuments. Szolnok is famous for its hot water springs, which we were able to bathe in at the local swimming pool. All of the students spoke English very well which allowed us to socialise and mix with the other teams. It was interesting to learn about the different schooling systems and the cultural differences between the countries. It was a very worthwhile experience both in the preparation stage and the visit. The best part was meeting so many different people, some of whom I'm sure we will see again.

C Brennan

Choreography Competition

Well done to all the girls who entered the Choreography Competition which, this year, had the theme of 'An Unfamiliar Place'. The competition was won by a group of girls from 9M, composed of: L Szerszynska, L Weaver de Araujo, H Wilson, P Walkden, L Sullivan and S Taylor.

A Musical Evening - Thursday 2nd April

The musical evening held at the end of the Spring Term was a great success. The audience enjoyed a number of beautiful individual performances as well as contributions from the junior and senior choirs and the Klango band. A highlight for many was the rousing final orchestra piece which involved the audience singing Land of Hope and Glory. A mini LGGS proms!

UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

This was our most successful intermediate challenge ever. 147 girls entered from Years 9, 10 & 11 with 105 gaining a certificate.

The following girls gained gold certificates:

Year 11: A Pearson, S Auckburally, A Clifton, E Cummings, P Tinsdeall, S Macari, N Clarkson, E Morphet, N Andrew, H Smith, E Newton, B Mooney, CPerry

Year 10: R Slee, R Choi, J Hurry, A Perryman

Year 9: S Royle, C Farey, S Hodgson, N Kotonya, Z Harding

Special mention should go to R Slee who, despite being in Year 10, was the highest scorer in LGGS - in a competition for Year 11 and S Royle who was the second highest scorer and only in Year 9.

House Challenge

This year, for the first time, we ran a House Challenge contest. This was a fast paced general knowledge quiz following the same rules as University Challenge. The teams consisted of one girl from each of years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and each had a button to press and a name that lit up when she interrupted the 'starter for 10'. The questions ranged from the names of Capital Cities to the names of the Spice Girls and it was a chance for the contestants to show off their general knowledge, completely outside what they learn formally in School. All who took part had a good time, especially the Aalborg team who won the contest. We hope that this will now become an annual event.

Mr J Backhouse

We were the Year 10 representatives for Aalborg and we thoroughly enjoyed taking part. It was good to do something outside the curriculum and the audience were very supportive. Needless to say we were thrilled when we won!

H Buckley and S Allen 10J

English Readathon

This year's 'Readathon' was launched at LGGS on 'World Book Day'; Thursday 5th March 2009. All Year 7 and 8 students were invited to participate in a two week sponsored read during which time they were challenged to read as many books as possible. Some reached over 30 texts! Pupils were either sponsored per book or with a lump sum for taking part, from their relatives and friends. All students produced mini-reviews of one of their Readathon books, which are now displayed hanging from our 'Reading Tree' in the school Library. We are delighted to announce that the Year 7 and 8 pupils have so far raised an incredible £520 for the following registered children's charities:

- The Roald Dahl Foundation
- CLIC Sargent

□ Social Enterprise Projects

This year a group of Lower Sixth students have been carrying out Social Enterprise projects in conjunction with Lancaster University Volunteers Unit. One of their projects involved identifying a local charity and carrying out a fundraising event.

- The Portland Project - a report from the group: "When we went to visit Portland House, free housing for teenagers who have found themselves in difficult circumstances, we knew that this was the charity we wanted to support. The enthusiasm we received from the manager of the Portland House inspired us to raise some money to help out. Now it was just a matter of deciding what to do to raise the money. We attended a LUVU conference, held at Lancaster University, to help us with team building and to develop our ideas. After deciding to hold a disco at the Hexagon (Lancaster & Morecambe College) we then had the challenge of advertising the event. We sold the tickets at £5 each which covered our costs and would make maximum profit for the charity. Finally, we decided on a black and white theme which all our advertising was based on. This gave us an opportunity to get our LBDs out! The night was a success, raising over £600 which exceeded our expectations. We are extremely proud of the success of the Portland Project."
- Lancaster & District Women's Aid - another group of Sixth Formers, "les Femmes" decided to support Lancaster & District Women's Aid to help improve facilities and care for the women and children who use this centre. They organised a very successful Mother & Daughter evening in school which raised £336. This group was also awarded the prize for the most outstanding Social Enterprise Award in the Voltage Project 2009.

□ YASS

For the first time this year, Sixth Form students had the opportunity to enrol on YASS, the Young Applicants in Schools and Colleges Scheme, run by the Open University. This scheme enables sixth form students to study undergraduate modules at first year level alongside their A levels. Congratulations to the following Year 13 students who successfully passed their modules:

- A Graham - Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis.
- S Farfort, S Soper, A Pinchinat-Miernik - Robotics and the Meanings of Life, a practical guide to things that think.

□ LGGS and LRGS Leadership for Life Conference LRGS Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June 2009

Leadership for Life is a two-day conference for LGGS and LRGS Lower Sixth students during which, through group exercises undertaken in teams of up to nine students, they learn about management and teamwork skills.

In recent years this event has proven to be a very beneficial and enjoyable experience for the students. However, the success of the conference is very much dependent upon the valuable

involvement of local businesses and professional people who help to facilitate the team activities.

We do appreciate the commitment needed to take two days away from work, but we are currently looking for people who are able to kindly volunteer to join us as a team mentor. Those who have acted as a team mentor in previous years have said how much they and their companies have benefited from their involvement.

Please contact Julia Stables at LGGs on 01524 32010 for further details and to offer your support.

☐ **An Evening of Talent – 23rd April**

Thank you to all the LGGs families who came along to our evening of talent. This was an event organised by LGGs sixth formers and pupils to raise money for the Tap Fund. We enjoyed a lovely evening of dance, music, singing and comedy, as well as an Eco-Fashion Show. The event raised £535 for the Tap Fund.

☐ **Extra-Curricular Opportunities this term**

Below are this term's activities. Please encourage your daughter(s) to participate. Each form has a booklet giving details of the activities.

Monday LGGs Chronicle lunch – Year 11
The Library at lunchtime – Year 7
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Gold) – Years 12&13
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) – Years 11-13
Spelling Support – All Years
Athletics – All Years
Tennis – Year 8&9
Faulkes Telescope Observation – Year 10

After School

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze) – Year 10
Total Body Workout – All Welcome
Swimming Club at LRGS

Tuesday Christian Union – All Years
The Library at lunchtime – Year 8
Italian Club – Year 7&8
Food Focus Group – Fortnightly Week B
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Gold) – Years 12-13
Coursework Clinic – Years 10&11
Tennis – Year 7
Senior Recreational Rounders – Years 10-13

After School

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) – Years 11-13
Mandarin Chinese – Year 8
Karate Club – All Years
Year 7 Science Club
Fencing – Year 10&11

Wednesday Amnesty International – All Years
The Library at Lunchtime – Year 9
Big Band – All Years
Year 7 Rounders
Tennis – Year 8&9
Cricket – Years 8&9

After School

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze) – Year 10
Art Support
Mandarin Chinese – Year 7
Total Body Workout
LGGs & LRGS Joint Drama Club – Year 9
Coursework Clinic – Years 10&11

Thursday Let's Recycle Paper Shredding
The Library at Lunchtime – Year 10
Sixth Form Council Meeting
Globetrotters
Recital Performance
Tennis Super Squad only – Year 7
Tennis Team practice – Years 8-13
Rounders – Years 8&9

After School Activities

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver)
Arts Award (Silver) – Years 10-13
Recorder Club – Years 7-9

Friday The Library at Lunchtime Year 11
Eco-Group and Garden Group – All Years
Athletics – All Years
Senior Recreational Tennis – Years 10-13

New Chronicle (2008-2009)

Please can any Year 11 or Year 13 students, wishing to order a Chronicle, get orders in as soon as possible. The Chronicle will be £9 - please make cheques payable to LGGs and hand them in to Reception in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with name and form. Thank you in advance.

Future Events this Half Term

Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th May	Year 9 "SATs" Exams
Thursday 7th May	7L & 7M French Trip (evening departure)
Saturday 9th May	The Friends' Fun Run
Monday 11th - Friday 15th May	7L & 7M return from French Trip
Monday 18th - Thursday 21st May	Year 10 Exams
Friday 22nd May	Year 9 Exams
	Half Term

Receipt of Newsletter

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

Yours sincerely

Jackie Cahalan

Headteacher