



Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS JANUARY 2010

Dear Parents

I would like to wish all LGGs families a very happy New Year. I apologise for the disrupted start to term caused by the ice and snow on untreated pavements and roads around the school. I know from looking at the website statistics that many of you were accessing this and I hope that you found our website updates a useful way of gaining information about school opening.

❑ **University offers**

This is likely to be an extremely competitive year for university admissions. I know it can be an anxious time as students (and parents!) wait for offers. Well done to all our sixth formers who have received offers for the courses they wish to study. Thank you also to the parents who volunteered to prepare students for interview.

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

J Edge to study Law at St John's Oxford

L Entwistle to study Engineering at University College Oxford

Y Kim to study Biological Sciences at Wadham Oxford

S Molloy to study French and Spanish at St Hilda's Oxford

L Brown to study Land Economy at Clare College Cambridge

G Xia to study Medicine at Christ's College Cambridge

Also congratulations to A Kearney who applied to Cambridge following her A levels and has gained a place at St Catherine's College to study Archaeology and Anthropology.

❑ **Staffing News**

Welcome back to Mrs Suzanne Mason who returns from her maternity leave to take up the post of Head of KS3.

We wish Mrs Seona Williams, Teacher of English, well as she starts her maternity leave. Her classes will be covered by two experienced teachers of English, Mrs Elizabeth Manson and Mr Robert Jephcote.

Mr Ed Campbell, Departmental Support Assistant, leaves us this month. We wish him well for the future.

Mr Mark Richards is recovering from an operation and hopes to be back with us soon this half term. His lessons are being covered by a Maths specialist teacher, Mrs Yvonne Dawson.

Miss Hope is still poorly and her classes are being taught by Mrs Angela Letchford, an experienced Chemistry teacher.

❑ **LGGs Improvement Projects – Dance studio and Fitness suite**

The bad weather has prevented our exciting new building project from beginning but we are looking forward to starting as soon as we can.

I would like to thank all those LGGS parents who have so generously given to our Annual Fund. So far, we have over £7000 pledged from parents who are making a regular donation or who have given us a one-off amount. This money will help LGGS improve facilities and ensure that your daughters continue to receive an outstanding education here at LGGS. For those parents who have not as yet been able to make a donation to the Annual Fund, I have enclosed another donation fund with this newsletter. Any amount is useful; we are appreciative of any help you can give us.

❑ **LGGS Promises Auction – Friday 12th March**

Thank you to those parents and students who have already responded to our request for promises for the LGGS Auction to be held on 12th March with the money raised being used to fund equipment for the new fitness suite.

So far the promises include:

- Use of a pony for a day
- Iced birthday cake with message
- Ride a Suzuki 1250cc Bandit motorbike as passenger with helmet and protective clothing provided.
- Hand made quilt
- Work experience with a GP in Preston
- Dog walking sessions
- Shadow a barrister for a day in court
- A full car valet
- Introduction to dinghy sailing, a full day at Ullswater Yacht club
- Two nights B&B at Wroxhall Abbey, Warwickshire.

We would be very grateful for more offers of promises. We would particularly appreciate more offers of work experience. Parents can use the form attached to the newsletter or email promises@lggs.lancs.sch.uk.

❑ **Joint Musical 'Oh What A Lovely War' by Joan Littlewood's Theatre Company**

This year's Joint Schools' Musical is at The Dukes Theatre, Moor Lane, Lancaster, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th March. Tickets will be on sale very shortly. Please expect a letter with further information next week.

❑ **Successful redesignation as a Technology College**

I am delighted to inform you that following our outstanding Ofsted we have successfully been redesignated as a Technology College.

On our website under Specialisms you will find a brochure giving you detailed information about our achievements and successes as a Technology College. As part of our redesignation we can bid for another £25,000 for a Technology College project providing we can raise at least £10,000 from business, H.E. or industry sponsorship. This can be in kind/time as well as money. If any parents have contacts which might be able to help us raise this amount I would be grateful if you could telephone me at school or email to lggs@lggs.lancs.sch.uk. On 3rd February the Technology Department are holding an open morning for all Year 8 parents and Mrs Sandbach will be writing to parents with more details.

❑ **Charity Fundraising Activities**

Last term is always a busy term in terms of fundraising. Our girls gave most generously to Children in Need with particular mention to 10K who raised £300 to persuade Dr Cook to take part in our very special lunchtime concert. Thank you to all the forms who ran additional activities such as cake stalls to raise money. In total, the school has donated £2,452 to Children in Need.

Other fundraising activities last term included:

- £200 raised for Akony Avoko our partner school in Madagascar
- £52 for Amnesty International

❑ **Help LGGS raise money by buying online!**

Do you buy everyday items on the internet? Do you ever order from Amazon, Waterstones, Marks and Spencer, Ebay, Next, HMV, Thorntons or other online stores? If so, please help LGGS to secure additional funding for improving ICT facilities at LGGS by accessing your usual online shopping sites via our special fundraising link.

LGGS has joined the **buy.at scheme**, a company which has helped lots of schools and community groups to raise thousands of pounds through online shopping. The School will receive a donation every time you purchase your goods via the buy.at link from books to pizza; clothes to car insurance. There is **no cost** to yourself and you are still buying from the same retailers as before. The service is also completely anonymous; we will not find out who has bought from the site.

There are also some bonus deals available. For example, if you are considering purchasing Sky television and order it via the buy.at link to the Sky website, the School will benefit from an immediate donation of £120.

There are over 100 retailers already participating in this scheme and hundreds of schools have benefited from this online fundraising. Please take a moment to visit the link: www.buy.at/lggs or follow the link from our school website and help the school fundraise. It won't cost you a penny!

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Scott at the School.

❑ **Flagship School: Food for Life**

I am sure many of you will have seen the Food for Life bus at Sainsbury's in December. The week's activities were a great success. Year 10 Food Technology students enjoyed advanced cooking sessions, while smaller groups of younger students, who are involved in promoting our eco group and food focus group, enjoyed cooking Christmas recipes. We were also able to offer sessions to Willow Lane and Dallas Road primary schools.

❑ **Citizens Advice Mural**

All our Year 9 students have contributed to the Citizens Advice Bureau's 70th Anniversary mural. Each pupil completed a detailed black pen rendering of a landmark building in Lancaster. Their artwork was then used as part of a large map of Lancaster. The mural is now on display in the entrance of the Bureau's Lancaster offices. Chas Jacobs, the well known Lancaster artist, inspired the students for a day with his fun, colourful buildings, whilst the students enjoyed painting buildings in his style.

The students amalgamated their artwork, using 'Adobe Photoshop 7' software, and have developed some extremely creative and bright outcomes. The mural was put together by the artist Annette Kane, to create a useful map which displays the key sites of Lancaster.

❑ **Hong Kong trainee teachers at LGGS**

We are working with the University of Cumbria on a project which enables Hong Kong trainee teachers to spend a placement at LGGS observing teaching and learning. Here is the feedback from one of the trainees:

I've learnt a lot from the teachers, they are so nice and professional which can be seen in their teaching. I learnt how to communicate with the students, I also learnt about various teaching methods, skills and classroom management. The experience has enhanced my knowledge of the profession. The students are friendly and brilliant; we were given a guided tour of the school by Sixth Form Students who showed their hospitality and leadership. Students participate actively in the classroom, which shows their passion of learning. It has been such a valuable experience!"

□ Parental Information

Parents' Advisory Group

One of our development aims as a school is to improve communication and links between parents and the school. We propose to set up a Parents' Advisory Group as one of the ways to do this. The group will meet termly. There will be no fixed membership of the group, parents can attend any meeting they are interested in. It is different to the Friends of LGGS group which will remain a key group in terms of fundraising and informal consultation. There will be a specific topic addressed at each meeting which will normally take the format of a short presentation on the issues by a member of the school staff and then plenty of time for discussion, seeking feedback on what parents like about what we are doing and ideas for improvement. The first meeting is planned for **Tuesday 23rd March**. Parents will receive reminders about it nearer the time but we thought you might like to put this in your diaries now. The first area we would wish to look at is the assessment methods used by the school, how we track your daughter's progress and the school reports.

Mozart's Requiem

The annual combined choral concert involving students, staff, parents and friends takes place this year on **Thursday 22nd April 2010 in Morecambe Parish Church**. Mozart's Requiem is one of the great masterworks of all time, and we will be performing with a semi-professional orchestra and soloists, mostly of past Lancaster Grammar students. If you would like to be involved simply join us at a rehearsal. It helps if you can read music and have some experience of singing, but this is not necessary.

Rehearsals are at Lancaster Priory on Mondays from 7.45pm until 9.15pm starting on 18th January. Please enter by the back door, accessed by driving in front of the castle and turning right (just before the steps) into Priory Close.

Rehearsals will be on these dates: 18th, 25th January, 1st, 22nd February, 8th, 15th, 29th March and 19th April 2010. Final rehearsal with orchestra on 22nd April at 6.00pm

Friends of LGGS Ceilidh

This will now be on **Tuesday 30th March 2010** the day before the end of term. Tickets will be available from reception shortly so please join us at what promises to be a lively event for all the family.

LGGS Careers Convention 2010

We hold our Careers Convention once every three years and this year it will take place on Wednesday 17th March between 6.30pm and 9.00 pm.

It is open to all students from Year 9 upwards and we encourage as many parents as possible to come along. We hope to have about 40 stands, representing wide range of careers, and it is a great opportunity to discuss your daughter's future career plans with a range of speakers, all of whom are experts in their field.

Over the coming weeks your daughter will be receiving information about the evening, including sheets to help her plan how she can make the most of the time.

Please put the date in your diary and we hope you will join us for what is usually a very busy and informative evening.

Speakeasy Course for parents starting January 2010

Sharon Hilton (School Nurse) will be offering this course for parents to compliment lessons that take place in school. This Family Planning Association endorsed course offers parents support, advice and knowledge to increase their confidence to enable them to talk to their children/teenagers. It's fun, relaxed and informative!

The course looks at answering children's questions, keeping children and young people safe, sex and relationship education at school and at home, puberty and growing up, sexually

transmitted infections, contraception and examines where children and young people get their messages from and what they hear. INTERESTED? Contact Sharon Hilton on (01524) 32636 or (01524) 518947.

❑ **Sporting Successes**

U14 District Hockey Tournament

Well done to the LGGGS U14 team who won the district tournament and conceded no goals.

U16 District Hockey Tournament

Congratulations to all the hockey players who also won the district tournament and conceded no goals.

U18 County Championships

The LGGGS 1st XI hockey team performed very well in the county championships, winning matches against Ripley, Stoneyhurst and Kirkham Grammar. In the final, LGGGS narrowly lost 1-0 to Arnold finishing in runners-up position.

Lancashire Hockey Selection

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

E Brooks

L Bale

E Dodd

R Dale has also been selected for Cumbria

Hockey North Development Squad

A special mention must go to S Smith Y13 who was selected to be part of the final North Development squad after going through several very competitive selection stages.

District Cross Country Championships

LGGGS competed in the District Cross Country Championships held at Ripley St. Thomas on 5th December 2009. We entered a team into each of the following categories: Year 7, Year 8/9 and Year 10/11 and Sixth Form. LGGGS came first in each of the team events and we also came first in each individual race, Year 7 winner R Dale, Year 8/9 winner M Hodgson, Year 10/11 winner S Hodgson and Sixth Form winner K Harding. In the Year 10/11 event our top three runners came in positions 1st, 3rd and 4th which is an incredible achievement. The PE Department would like to congratulate all 40 competitors on their success and to thank A Jarman who devotes her Tuesday lunchtimes and some weekends to organise running club and competitions.

Well done to the following girls from Years 7 and 8 who have now been selected to run for Lancaster and District.

Year 7 R Dale, K Fairhurst, S Halsall, A Kasam Sharples, A Burns

Year 8 & 9 M Hodgson, H Fleet, J McCracken, A Walker, A Tidswell

❑ **British Schools Orienteering Championships**

A 14 strong LGGGS team entered the British Schools Orienteering Championships in Northumberland at the end of November. Our Year 7 team gained second place with LGGGS student, H Cleary-Hughes taking first place. Z Harding gained first place in Year 10. The Year 12 team consisting of K Harding, J Tynan, H Kennedy and A Balcer won the Year 12 team trophy and, overall, LGGGS came 7th in the large school category. Well done to everybody who took part and thank you to Mr Quentin Harding for all his work with the team.

❑ Individual student successes

S Stott has been selected to represent Lancashire Rugby team at U15 level. Making the Lancashire squad two years younger than the required age is a fantastic achievement.

A Ngei completed in the Pony Club Intermediate National Endurance championship and finished Champion.

J Fox bounced her way to success in the U13 Lancashire Schools Trampolining Competition when she finished third overall.

Congratulations to G Walton (Y11) and H Walton (Y8) who have both been accepted on to the BBO scholarship scheme; H Walton for ballet and G Walton for jazz.

You can read more about these fantastic sporting successes and find out more information about other sporting activities at LGGS by looking at our website. Miss Leanne Sharples, our Sports Coordinator, has put together a very informative booklet about last term's achievements.

❑ Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

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

Gold Level: (Old Girls 09) R Dean, (Year 13) D Kyle and C Summerfield.

Silver Level: (Old Girls) K Briggs, C Dutton, E Wignall, (Year 13) S Easterby-Smith, (Year 12) O Broadbent, J Dawson and K Harding.

Bronze Level: (Old Girls) F Ross, H Smith, (Year 13) E Sullivan, (Year 12) H Dixon, E Granger, G Leamy, R Miller, (Year 11) G Baldwin, R Choi, L Hamer, R Harvey, C Holden, S Pottinger, G Singleton, M Smith and C Haslam.

Thank you again to Mrs Yvonne Cunningham, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator and LGGS staff who give up so much time to support the Award Scheme.

❑ Crown Court Competition

Last term LGGS sixth formers took part in the Bar National Mock Trial competition organised by the Citizenship Foundation. The students take on a variety of roles including barristers, witnesses, reporter, juror and court officials.

Here is O Egdell-Page's account of the competition:

On Saturday 21st November, 16 girls from LGGS (accompanied by Dr and Mrs Workman), travelled to Manchester Crown Court to take part in the North West heat of the Bar Mock Trial competition. Prior to the competition, we prepared both prosecution and defence arguments for two mock cases with the help of Mrs Workman and our barrister, Ciaran Rankin. We all worked together to create Opening and Closing Speeches, Initial Questions for our witnesses and Cross Examinations. After much preparation and practice, we were finally ready for the competition.

On arrival in Manchester, we discovered that we were up against 10 other schools. We were all briefed, and then the competition began. In round two, it was my turn, but I was actually more nervous about wearing the strange wig than the actual case! Although we won all three of our cases, we didn't expect to get through to the final. But to our huge surprise, it was announced that "The schools through to the final were Urmston Grammar and Lancaster Girls' Grammar School!" Also, we were delighted to discover that R Shrimpton had won the Court Reporter competition too, and would be entered for the national competition. In the final rounds, we were judged by a member of the QC, and the trial took place in a huge panelled court room - very intimidating. Eventually, after a long and difficult case, Urmston Grammar school won both the case and the competition - but only by two points. Taking part in the

Crown Court Competition has been a fantastic experience. I have learnt so much, and it has really set me on pursuing a career in Law. I would finally like to thank Mrs Workman and Ciaran on behalf of the whole team for making it possible for us to take part in the competition and to learn so much.

❑ Young Chef Challenge

The two finalists from LGGS who were entered for the Young Chef Challenge in Manchester organised by British Meat Education in December were K Barnett and A Roberts. K Barnett made superb Oriental-style noodles with meatballs and vegetables served with sesame topped rolls and A Roberts made a very tasty Tomato, beef mince and basil ravioli served with mixed leaves. Both received a certificate from James Martin, who judged the competition and he signed one of his cookbooks for them.

❑ Clubs and Activities – Spring 2009

Parents can find all the extra curricular activities planned for this term on our website.

❑ School Chronicle

This year's LGGS School Chronicle is now available for £10.00 from Reception.

❑ Future events this half term

Monday 25th January
Thursday 28th January
Tuesday 2nd February
Wednesday 3rd February
Tuesday 9th February
Friday 12th February

Post 16 Options Day for Year 11
Year 10 Parents' Evening
Year 9 Parents' Evening/Option Evening
Year 11 Geography Fieldwork
Post 16 Option Day for all external applicants
School closes for 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