



# Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

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## NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear Parents

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. I have already welcomed the new girls who have joined LGGS this September. I would like to welcome all 'new parents' to the LGGS community and I hope you will enjoy being part of LGGS. I look forward to meeting New Year 7 parents on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm. We also have an Information Evening for all Year 12 parents on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.00pm.

### ☐ **Staffing News**

We welcome a number of new staff to LGGS

Mrs Jane Brown – Learning Support Assistant  
Ms Julie Dobson – Teacher of Maths  
Mr Mike Ellwood – Part time Teacher of English  
Mrs Antonia Everett – Teacher of Maths  
Mrs Luci Martin – Teacher of Spanish/French  
Miss Anna Plowman – Part time Teacher of MFL  
Mr Michael Scott – Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Curriculum and ICT  
Miss Leanne Sharples – Teacher of PE  
Mrs Julie Tonge – Data Officer  
Miss Katherine Whitehouse – Teacher in Charge of Spanish  
Mr Harry Yearnshire – Head of History

There have also been a number of changes with existing staff taking on new responsibilities

Miss Sarah Bellin – Deputy Head  
Mrs Kerry Shaw – Head of Year 13  
Miss Katy Allen – Head of Year 12  
Mrs Kate Houghton – Head of KS4. Mrs Houghton takes over responsibility for the academic progress, care and development of girls in Years 10 and 11.  
Mrs Fran Walker – Coordinator of Student Well being. Mrs Walker will work closely with small groups of students in KS4 and the Sixth Form who may be experiencing health and emotional problems  
Mrs Hilary Hopwood – Head of MFL and International Coordinator  
Mrs Barbara Bettsworth – In charge of Language College  
Miss Amanda Broadfield – Head of PE  
Miss Jo Gates – Head of ICT

Miss Gates has taken over as Head of House for Lublin and Miss Hope for Aalborg.

Mrs Jo Tilley, Teacher of Biology has had an operation and unfortunately will not be able to return to school until later this year. We wish her a good recovery. In the meantime we are fortunate in having Dr Sandra Moody a well qualified and experienced Teacher of Biology already on our school staff. Dr Moody will cover Mrs Tilley's classes this term.

## ❑ **A Level Results**

This year's A level results were outstanding with 81% of students gaining A and B grades. Eight students gained 5 grade As: E Bates, J Bates, Mi Bousfield, R Brand, R Cornall, K Fishwick, R Southwell and D Wilkinson. A further 19 students gained 4 grade As. In the Advanced Extension Awards 3 students gained distinction and six merits.

This year all of the Upper Sixth had the opportunity to gain the AQA Baccalaureate qualification. Students were able to gain credit not only for their academic successes but also their enrichment activities including Duke of Edinburgh, volunteer work and participation in school events.

We wish the A level students well as they now prepare for higher education and other opportunities.

## ❑ **AS Results**

Well done to the Year 12 students for their AS level results. 20 students gained 4 grade As with A Holden, H Nickson and C Xu gaining 5 grade As. Special mention to the students who completed the Extended Project Qualification. As this is a half A level, it was the first opportunity to gain the new A\* grade at A level. 6 students gained A\*, 11 grade A and 3 grade B.

As we are still awaiting a number of re-marks the AS results will be sent out with the next Newsletter.

## ❑ **GCSE**

The GCSE results were one of our best year's results ever, with the percentage of A\*/A grades at 82.8%. Everybody passed English, Maths and the Science. Our A\*-C pass rate was 99% with 88% of girls achieved at least 5 GCSEs at grades A\*/A. A special mention to the following students who gained 11 A\* grades: S Auckburally, P Gibson, Ka Harding, E Ingram, M Masher, H Smith, P Smith, R Whittam and B Mooney.

A group of Year 10 and Year 11 girls sat AS Critical Thinking, their results were excellent. Congratulations to (Year 11) G Fletcher, K Garson, E Granger, K Harding, H Smith. (Year 10) A Branford, R Choi, A Davies, D Ganesh, T Ghosh, L Hamer, R Harvey, R Jones and G Nair.

Well done also to the Year 11 students (and parents!) who sat AS Psychology through the evening class with Mr Kimberley.

Year 11 student I Roszkowska gained A grades in AS French and AS Polish. Congratulations also to other students who sat language exams early – L Weaver de Araujo (GCSE Portuguese), N Imran (GCSE Urdu)

## ❑ **Improvements to LGGS facilities**

Over the summer our Food Technology room has been refurbished and is now a very attractive teaching room. We also carried out some work to improve access for student with disabilities. We have now completed negotiations over an area of land (about 8 acres) adjacent to our playing fields. This greatly increases the land available for sporting facilities. We have plans to level and landscape the land, possibly to include a running track and fitness trail.

We have also received some funding from the Local Authority for a dance studio and fitness suite. I will be writing to parents with more details about these plans and with information about how parents can help us to improve facilities at LGGS.

## ❑ **Salters' Festival of Chemistry**

In June four girls from the Year 7 Science Club took part in the University of Liverpool festival of Chemistry. They took part in two chemistry practicals in the university labs, competing against 24 other schools to solve a problem. The team won the Salters' Challenge where they reported on a murder suspect using forensic testing. Congratulations to H Browne, L Gardner, J McCracken and C Xu.

## ❑ **LGGS teams celebrate their success at the North West Crest Awards for Technology**

Well done to our Year 9 team of E Hetherington, N Koto, C Farey and C Joseph who won the NW Bronze Crest award for Technology for their project on alternative energy in school. The girls won £100 for the school.

Congratulations to our Year 12 team of V Elton, L Entwistle, H Martlew and B Thomas who won the North West Gold Crest Award for Engineering and the overall Young Engineers award for the North West, winning £200 for the school. Both teams have been invited to represent the North West at the National Competition next March.

## ❑ **Go4Set Success**

Congratulations to our Year 9 team who took part in the Go4Set Engineering Project at Lancaster University. E Evans, C Farey, A Holden, C Joseph, M Shields and L Stewart won the Teamwork Award and £250 for LGGS.

## ❑ **Year 9 Adventure Day at the YMCA Lakeside**

In June Year 9 enjoyed a day of teamwork, zip wires, raft building, rope walking and generally having a good time. The following extracts are from A Snalam, R Snalam and L Turnbull's account of the day.

We moved on to the zip wire, although many of us were nervous, most succeeded in 'zipping' across the lake. Although the climbing up the vertical ladder was scary, the worst part was the first swoop down once in the air. The feeling after the course was one of exhilaration and success, and I don't think any one would have said no to a second go!

And last, but by no means least, came the rafting. In teams we had to build up rafts using large barrels, wood and rope. Then race them out, round a buoy, and back into shore. One of the highlights of the day was on the rafts, when Miss Gates fell into the water taking Lucy with her, and Miss Broadfield sliding off the raft to help push her group, with Miss Morris taking photos from the jetty.

Many of us were hoping the coach would break down before we had set off, so we could have longer at YMCA, typically no such luck came our way. The coach journey home was spent discussing the day, and the only improvement that could be thought of was to be able to have had a longer time spent there.

## ❑ **Sporting Successes**

### Inter Schools Swimming Gala

Well done to all the swimmers who represented LGGS at the gala in June. Our Year 7 team finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, Year 8 and Year 9 3<sup>rd</sup>. Special congratulations to our Year 10 team of L Green, S Rawlinson, I Rawlinson and R Harvey who finished joint first with Ripley.

### District Triathlon Championships

Well done to our Year 8 team who were crowned champions in this competition which involves each athlete completing a throw, jump, run and relay. The team consisted of M Meju, P Morgan, C Hutchinson and C Wilcock. M Meju also won the individual title for the highest score of all competitors. A special mention also to E Davies who won the individual title for Year 7 competitors.

### District Inter School Athletics Competition

Congratulations to M Meju who finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Junior Girls 200m race at the English Schools Athletics Championships in Sheffield in July. She also helped the Lancashire Relay Team gain 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 4 x 100m relay.

LGGS girls broke a number of district records in their events.

Congratulations to:

H Tuer – a new javelin record of 20.92m

M Meju – 200m record of 26.5 seconds

The Year 7 relay team, C Elley, E Davies, A Walker and E Walker – new record of 57.9 seconds

Well done to the following girls who won their events to become District Champions

Year 7 – E Davies, A Walker, H Tuer, C Elley, E Walker

Year 8 – M Meju, A Tidswell, P Morgan

Year 9 – M Whittle, S Hodgson, S Robinson, A Snalam

Year 10 - J Gill, D Freedman, L Webster, I Rawlinson

### **Pupil and Student Achievements**

Congratulations to the following pupils:

S Hodgson (Year 10) who has been selected to represent GB in the Biathle World Championships in Monaco later this month.

A Ngei (Year 8) who is the only Northwest Competitor to qualify for the Intermediate Section of the Pony Club National Endurance Championship held in Bedfordshire later this month.

A Wild and L Leech (Year 13) who have passed their Shotokan 'Sho Dan' grading (1<sup>st</sup> level Black Belt)

### **LGGS Women in Science Competition**

Last term Mrs Brown organised a Women in Science Competition for all interested Year 12 students.

The students had to research and deliver a presentation on a woman scientist of their choice.

The winning entry was the lively and original presentation on Rosalyn Yalow (who devised the Radio immuno essay) given by V Golash and A Verma.

The winners spent a memorable day at London's Natural History Museum. They were also privileged to examine some less public treasures in the archives of the Royal Society. They and the competition runners-up, B Thomas and A Rhodes, will spend a day shadowing research scientists at Lancaster University during the Autumn Term.

### **The Combined Orchestra in National Festival of Music for Youth**

The Combined Orchestra, involving players from LGGS and LRGS, entered the National Festival of Music for Youth this year, and after playing magnificently at the regional event at

Cartmel in April won a coveted place in the Final at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>.

The day started badly with a phone call to tell us the timpanist (a key player) was too ill to come. E Picton immediately volunteered to play the part at sight, and spent the coach journey trying it out in her head while the other percussion parts were shared out by R Miller so that we could still play Walton's Crown Imperial march and Mozart's Magic Flute overture. The stage was scarily huge, and the other orchestras, including Oxfordshire Symphony Orchestra all seemed to be older than our players, but our orchestra played really well. We didn't win any awards this time, but will be going back next year to put that right. Well done everybody, especially the percussion players who stepped in at the last minute.

## ❑ Extra Curricular Activities

There are many opportunities for your daughter to take part in lunchtime and after school activities this term. I hope the New Year 7 pupils will try out different clubs and activities before Junior Drama starts after half term. May I remind parents that the library is also supervised until 4.30pm Monday to Thursday so that girls can work in there after school. The lunchtime and after school activities are publicised every term and each form receives a copy of an information booklet produced by Mr Williams. You will notice that we even have some breakfast activities this year. Below is a summary list of the main activities.

Monday	<u>Breakfast</u> Table Tennis 7.50am – 8.20am <u>Lunchtime</u> Gymnastics – All Welcome 12.30pm -1.05pm Year 7 Hockey – 12.30pm – 1.05pm Senior Choir Years 10&11 – 12.40pm in Music Room LGGGS Chronicle (Lunchtime) Year 12 Library at Lunchtime (Year 7) <u>After School</u> Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze) Year 10 – 3.40-4.30pm Art Support – 3.30 – 4.30pm Intermediate Latin Year 10 3.45 – 4.45pm Room 34 Book Club Years 7&8 – Room 12 3.45pm-4.45pm
Tuesday	<u>Breakfast</u> Wake and Shake 7.50am – 8.20am <u>Lunchtime</u> Senior Hockey (Field) Gymnastics – Elite (Gym) Running Club (Gym) Football Christian Union All Years – 12.45pm (Room 32) Library at Lunchtime (Year 8) Year 10 Faulkes Telescope Observation – 12.40pm J Block Spelling Support (All Years) 12.30pm <u>After School</u> Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) Years 11-13 in J2 Year 7 Science Club 3.00 – 4.30pm J2/J3 Yoga (Years 10-13) Improvers Mandarin Years 8 & 9 – 3.45-4.30pm in Room 33 Beginner Latin Year 9 – 3.45-4.45pm Room 34 Café Philo (Year 13) French Philosophy Group 3.45pm-4.30pm
Wednesday	<u>Lunchtime</u> Dance (All Years) Year 8 Hockey Big Band (All Years) 12.40pm in Room 6 Library at Lunchtime (Year 9) Food Focus Group (Date to be arranged once a month) Mrs Harwood

Amnesty International (All Years) Room 22 at 12.45pm  
Science Club (Year 7) in J2 at 12.40pm

#### After School

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze) Year 10 in J2  
Coursework Clinic – Years 10 & 11 in T3 at 3.30pm  
Badminton  
BTEC Dance (Year 11)  
Cookery Club (Year 8) 3.30pm-5.00pm T2 Mrs Harwood  
Beginner Mandarin (Year 7) 3.45pm-4.30pm Room 34  
Young Enterprise (Year 10) 3.40-5.00pm  
Young Enterprise (Year 10) 3.40pm – 5.00pm

Thursday

#### Lunchtime

Fitness Club  
Netball All Years  
Year 9&10 Hockey Umpiring  
Rugby Years 10-13  
Library at Lunchtime (Year 10)  
Sixth Form Council Meetings – Lunchtime  
Globetrotters Room 34 12.45pm  
Arts Award (Silver) Years 10-13 12.40 in Room A2  
Recorder Club Years 7-9 Room 16  
Crown Court Competition (Yrs 12&13) current members only Room 10 12.40  
Senior Choir (Years 10&11) 12.40pm in Music Room

#### After School

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) Years 11-13 in J2  
Fitness (Years 10-13)  
BTEC Dance (Year 10)

Friday

#### Lunchtime

Dance (All Years)  
Years 9 & 10 Hockey  
Junior Choir Years 7-9  
Library at Lunchtime (Year 11)  
Garden/Eco Group in Food Tech or Garden at 12.40pm - All Welcome

#### **Holiday Dates 2010-2011 (attached)**

May I take this opportunity to remind parents of the school's policy on holiday during term time, which can be found in the Pupil Handbooks.

#### **News from the Friends**

The Friends of LGGS are a key part of LGGS life, supporting the school through helping at and running events and fundraising. The AGM is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.00pm in the Meeting Room at LGGS. I would like to encourage parents to attend, especially parents of Year 7 girls.

#### **Language Classes**

You will see from the clubs & activities booklet we are extending our foreign language classes this year. The main opportunities are the Latin classes begin week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> September and the Mandarin classes begin on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. If any parent wishes more information about these classes please contact Mrs Bettsworth.

In addition Year 9 students will shortly be able to apply for the Foreign Language Leaders award.

☐ **School Meals**

It is pleasing to see many girls using the school dining room at the start of term. A reminder to parents that the weekly menu is available on our website. Parents may be interested in the following website which gives information about the new nutrient standards [www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk](http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk) It is a great help if parents can pay for school meals by sending in a cheque, rather than cash. Please write your daughter's name and form on the back of the cheque.

☐ **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.

**Receipt of Newsletter**

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

Yours sincerely

*Jackie Cahalin*

Headteacher