



Ron Berry
[Alumni Liaison]

Old Leicestrian Newsletter

This year is significant in the history of the School. The end of this term marks the 35th anniversary of its foundation and we have hosted 2 successful luncheons to mark this significant milestone: one for parents and the other for pupils from the early 1980's. Our major event next summer will be a Sports Tour Reunion for the '96, '99 and '02 Tourists. More details will follow during the year.

We offer our congratulations to Dr Sarah Dauncey (mother of OLs Rose, Ellen and Jane Lefley) on being elected Chair of the LGS Trust following the recent death of Ian Patterson. Helen May has been appointed the new Head of Geography and Robert McLean the new Head of Classics – we wish them all well in their new roles

Our congratulations also go to Aatin Anadkat [OL'99] owner of Maiyango, who has been awarded a British Empire Medal for his entrepreneurial activities and for supporting local suppliers and producers. He has also formed a partnership with St Martin's House Conference Centre (formerly the old School building), a charitable company founded by the Bishop of Leicester, allowing profits to be recycled back into the local community. Alongside this he has taken time to be a mentor for students at De Montfort University.



News: Acquisition of Stoneygate School

The Trustees of Leicester Grammar School Trust are delighted that negotiations have been concluded with the owners of Stoneygate School and that it now forms part of the Trust's family of schools.

For the next academic year, starting in September, Stoneygate School will continue to be a traditional Prep School offering education to children from Reception to Year 8. However, Stoneygate will be developed so that from September 2017 the school will offer education to GCSE level.

Stoneygate was founded in the city in the nineteenth century. It acquired Glen Prep in 1976 and in 2003 moved its senior department to modern facilities in Great Glen.

Numbers of pupils had been falling because of a poor Ofsted inspection in May 2015 and

a lack of capital investment. The intention is to invest in the staff and the site. Mr John Dobson, previously the Deputy Head of LGJS has been appointed as Headmaster of Stoneygate School with immediate effect.

Christopher King, Headmaster and Chief Executive of Leicester Grammar School Trust, commented; 'This is an exciting and bold move by the Trustees. We will build on the strengths of the school in offering a distinctive Prep school education with small class sizes, committed teachers and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.'



Valete: So it's 'Goodbye' from them!



Martyn Gower

'Is that a ranging pole or are you just pleased to see me?' - just one of the fond memories of working at LGS, starting in the summer of 1997 when I met Mr Berry.

My teaching time at the old School was punctuated with tales of the early days by personalities like Mr Berry, Mr Handford and Dr Whittle, trips to Games talking to the bus driver as we meandered along Saffron Lane to the football fields, spasmodic crises as well-lubricated members of the public staggered into the Thatcher Hall to use the

toilets and exciting moments as various petty criminals were tackled by some of the braver members of staff. At the same time my school social life revolved around Café Bruxelles.

Then came 'The Move' and the coining of the famous phrase 'it will be ok when we move

to Great Glen'. Planning the layout of our new department was exciting as was packing boxes and 'turving-out' various pre-war (Falklands!) teaching materials previously donated to the Department (I remember a mountain of National Geographic magazines with particular dread).

When we moved to Great Glen the Geography Department comprised of me, Mr Berry (still going strong), Miss Williamson (my favourite hockey player ever), Mr King (occasionally) and Mr Donnelly. I am forever grateful to Mr Donnelly for taking care of me when I had a sudden food poisoning event while on the DofE trip to Morocco. I won't, however, miss his blister clinics.

My departure completes an entire change of personnel in the department and I wish Mrs May (our new Head of Geography), Mrs Feasey and Mr Peake every success for the future.



Andrew Harrop

During my time at the school the Classics Department has grown and thrived. This could not have been achieved without the help of my colleagues, for which I am very grateful. Not all can be mentioned here, but several deserve particular thanks. When I joined the school in 1989, Sarah Funnell was a stalwart of the department who set and maintained high standards. Subsequently Philip de May, as well as being an excellent classicist, kept us all entertained and fostered my caffeine habit. Charles Paterson and Barbara Panton were both reliable

and discerning colleagues for many years prior to their retirement.

My consistent intention has been to make classical subjects accessible to as many pupils as possible. Current colleagues, most notably

Anastasia Vassiliou-Abson, have promoted this philosophy, risen to new challenges, and contributed to our Greek Project: <https://lgsgreekproject.wordpress.com>

During my career the school and education have both changed significantly. Most changes have been for the better, though some have been misguided or driven by various kinds of short-termism. The pursuit of academic disciplines, including Classics, is as important now as ever. I wish the Classics Department and the school every success in the future.



Kathy Hinshelwood



Karen [Harrison] Peart



Eleanor Pottinger



Mireya Gonzalez-Rodriguez

We also say farewell to six members of the teaching staff, Martyn Gower, Andrew Harrop, Eleanor Pottinger and Kathy Hinshelwood are retiring while Karen [Harrison] Peart and Mireya Gonzalez-Rodriguez have moved onto pastures new. Reception also has a new face as Patricia Pegg retired after 16 years service, and the Headmaster said farewell to his PA Sarah Reeve.

News: OLs participate in BBC Question Time at LGS



Peter Cox [OL'07]

In October Leicester Grammar School was the chosen venue for the BBC's Question Time programme. The St Nicholas' Hall was turned into a TV studio for David Dimbleby and his panel. Issues discussed included Russia in Syria, Teresa May's Conservative Party Conference speech on immigration and Working Tax Credits.

Several OLs were lucky enough to attend this event and Laura Marriott-Clarke [OL'92] was chosen to open the programme with a question on Teresa May's views on immigration.

Katharine Douglas
(nee Staunton)
[OL'92]

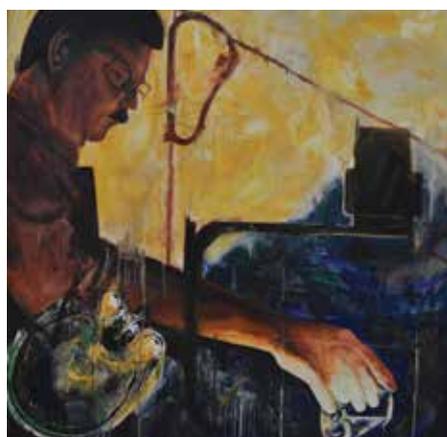
Being part of Question Time was brilliant! Waiting to go in and watching the news so we could write updated questions; David Dimbleby welcoming us and telling us what would happen; the run-through and practice debates with the

15 students and I were invited backstage to see the process of producing Question Time as an outside broadcast. We had a meeting with the Director who gave us a run-down of the workings of the show, the people involved and how the show is produced on the night. We toured the production van, had a go at vision mixing and even had a chance to try out the cameras on set. It was a fantastic experience for the students, who were complimented by the Director for their enthusiasm.

floor manager and the audience standing in for the panel. It was a perfectly-timed, smooth running procedure, amazing as nobody knew what the audience or panel were going to say.

News: Memorials at LGS

Over the last few years, small groups of LGS students have been able to visit Auschwitz as part of a project run by the Holocaust Educational Trust entitled 'Lessons from Auschwitz'. Following one such visit Francesca Curtis and Laura Wiselka [both OL'14] marked their visit by designing a Peace Garden as 'a quiet place of contemplation where people can sit and reflect'. It was always the OLs intention to contribute to the area and there is now a sandstone bench and memorial plaque in place, remembering staff who have passed away.



One memorial that students pass by every day is the artwork depicting John Christie at work in his physics lab [Head of Physics 1983-2008]. Located at the end of the Street on the first floor, the painting of John by James Robinson [OL'03] is a reminder of a much loved teacher who passed away in 2008. A plaque to attribute the artwork will be in place very soon.

Finally it is with regret that we pass on the news that Ian Patterson passed away just after Christmas. He was a supporter of the School firstly as a parent, and then served as a full Board member on the Leicester Grammar School Trust prior to becoming its Chairman in 1999. He will be remembered most notably for his work on the relocation of the Trust to the new site in Great Glen. We are at present in discussion with the School about a suitable memorial to Ian.



Memories: My First Day at School



Zoe Cosciani [OL'91]

Stepping onto the yard, to my right, Leicester Cathedral towers above me, the old spire rising above the tops of ancient trees. To my left, Leicester Grammar School, my new place of learning; a towering tutelage of bright red bricks. At each end of the small tarmac yard is a basketball post, painted white, spotted with rust. One of the posts is not straight, as though bent out of fashion by a careless car. My first impression is of space. A lack of it. Everything here is fighting for space.

A kiss from my parents, words of good luck that go unheard, and they're gone. Looking around, I know no-one. A surge of panic and then a bell. My eyes dart, briefly finding others, equally unsure. But we fall in line, joining a melee of jostling, chatter and laughter. We're surrounded by high walls to the heart of the red-brick building, towards tall, thin and heavily glossed timber doors. Carried on the crowd I see a man. He stands in a black gown keeping strict order at the looming entrance. He scares me. I don't know it now, but 30 years hence, we will be colleagues. His gown will be gone, I won't call him "Sir" and I will no longer be scared of Mr Longson.

The room is old. The desks are pocked, the chairs rickety. I notice sealed sash windows with panes aplenty, wire mesh within. High above, a hinged pane, larger, a worn metal loop affixed atop. At the front of the room, clipped to the wall, a long wooden pole with a hook at one end. It opens the high windows on hot summer days.

Later this week I hear how Mr Higginbotham, in gown and mortar-board, single-handedly enacted the full saga of Odysseus and the Cyclops to a transfixed audience. Legend has it that the bell for break marked the piercing of the single seeing-eye and the window pole was the spear.

After registration it's not long before I'm proceeding along Peacock Lane to the cathedral for the start of term service. Keep left, walk don't run, no talking.

I learn that each visit to the Cathedral is a rich seam for detention. Talking and tomfoolery are

taboo at school services, and the teachers stationed at every row-end have eyes in the back of their heads. As the years pass, I will increasingly struggle to evade their attention – the start of term and the end of term are platforms for chatter. Today I emerge unscathed - it won't always be so.

Lessons and homework are the least of my worries. We are introduced to record cards: their purpose is to track achievement and misdemeanor. Reds are good, blacks are bad. They come in several denominations; half, full, one and a half, and double. There are many ways to attract blacks, and not so many for reds. Two blacks in a week means detention. In the coming weeks I will see a few double-blacks dished out; straight to detention, do not pass go.

Lunch is served in Great Hall which also doubles as an assembly hall, gym and on occasion, an indoor tennis court. Court is a grand word for a net strung across the floorboards. Great Hall is a multi-functional space in a school where space and resources are at a premium. It is only years later that I wonder who it was that turned this room around every day, from morning assembly, to gym, to dining hall, to gym, and back to morning assembly ready for the next day.

I had my hockey kit, but where would we play? I hadn't seen a patch of green grass all day. I soon found out. Western Park: the coldest, most wind-swept piece of grass in the whole of Middle England. I remember the long trudge up the concrete, pebble-dashed path to the changing pavilion. The cold, mud-strewn floors of the peg-rowed changing rooms. The brutal wind and rain of winter hockey. Two hours later, back to the pavilion, red-thighed and shivering. Into steaming showers, a quick dry and change, then a trudge to the buses, sometimes there, sometimes not.

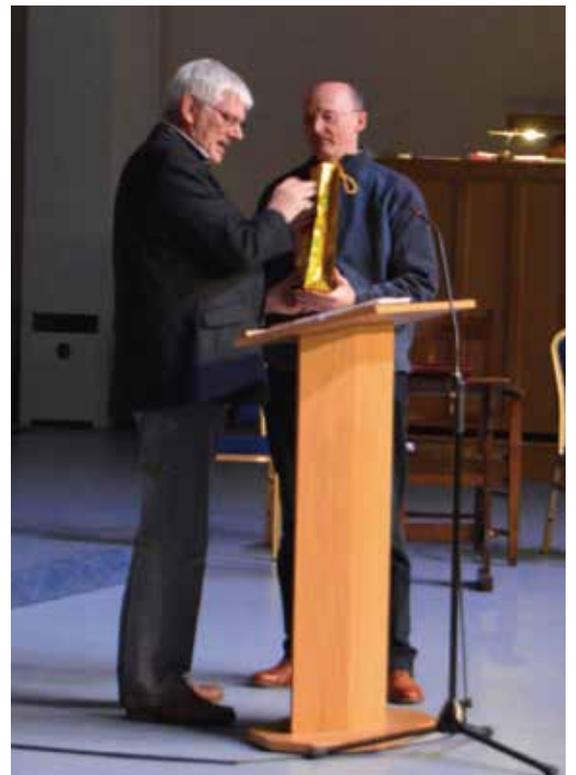
When I was young, everyone told me my school days would be the best days of my life. How could they be, I'd think. But at Leicester Grammar School they were. I'm glad I was there at the start and that as a teacher I am part of the future.

Reunion: Pioneers Parents Lunch '82-'85



News: Richard Longson completes 100 terms

Richard Longson has become the first person to complete 100 terms in the service of LGS. At the carol service this milestone in the history of the School was marked by the presentation of a gift from the OL Association to Richard. He was appointed to teach History in 1982. He set up the OLs in the early days and guided the Association to success before handing it on in the early '90's. He continues to be Head of Careers, although he is now a part-time member of the Common Room.



Reunion: OL Carol Service

23rd December 2015



Safia Lamrani, Harvey Kingsley-Elton, Billy Carter, Kieron Johal and Dominic Clearkin



Chris Penfold, Oli Noble, Robbie Scudamore and Will Alloway



Laila Rizvi, Holly Johal, Amrita Ragi, Charles Paterson



Dave Roebuck, Sarah Wolloff and Zain Rizvi



Ned Davies, Charlie Thacker, Oli Noble, Will Marriot



Bryan Shaw

MEMORIAL CONCERT

12th March 2016

On Saturday 12th March 2016 Old Leicestrians gathered to pay tribute to Bryan Shaw who was Head of Instrumental Studies at the School from 1990 until his retirement in 2012. Bryan was a charismatic woodwind teacher and a friend to many.

At Bryan's funeral Suzanne Doyle [OL'02] and Ron Berry hatched a plan to remember Bryan in the most appropriate way possible: namely a concert at St Margaret's Church, Crick where members of the school performed annually over the course of 23 years.

It was decided that the concert should showcase the talents of those OLs who are pursuing a professional career in music. In addition, two of Bryan's most recent woodwind pupils were asked to take part.

All of the performers spoke very highly of Bryan's influence on their musical lives. A choir of some 25 OLs conducted by Charles Paterson performed some of the favourites from the School Choir's repertoire - Blue Skies, Java Jive and Tequila Samba.



The audience of 200 was made up of OLs, their families and parishioners of St Margaret's who had supported the School's Crick concerts over the years.

There was a collection which enabled the OLs to donate £1200 to Cancer Research UK and £500 to St Margaret's Church.

Thanks are due to Suzanne Doyle for taking on the daunting task of organising the musical programme; all the OLs who made time in their busy schedules to perform, and the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Margaret's Church for allowing us to use their beautiful building which holds so many memories for musical OLs.

The evening was a fitting tribute to a man who made an enormous contribution to the School in so many ways.



Ed Barker [OL'03]



Mary Harding Scott [OL'15]



Ben Giddens [OL'04] & Jacob Phillips [OL'10]



Julie Shaw



Stephanie Edwards [OL'02]



Melissa Court [OL'06]



Chris Glynn (Hughes) [OL'93] & Matthew Gee [OL'01]



Ron Berry



Isabel Glover



Katherine Bryan [OL'96]



The OL Choir conducted by Charles Paterson

Reunion: OL London Drinks

22nd April 2016



Joanne Thompson, Emily Short, Peter Cox and Richard Lockington



Christina Fearon and Nicken Kotak



Ross Taylor and Tanika Stewart



Troy Thacker, Richard Bowden and James Bamber



Carl James, James Oldfield, Andrew McKinley and James Bamber



Robert Kidd, Akash Bhatt and Rikesh Lodhia



Nicky Laybourne (nee Ward), Natalie Fletcher, Alexis Williamson, James Rich and Charlotte Calland



Dave Roebuck, Katie Langrick and Ruth Duffield

Reunion: Class of '06

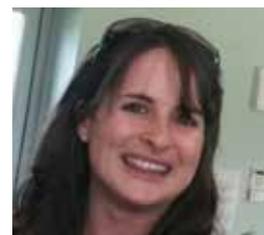
4th May 2016



Ron Berry, Kyla Archer, Niharika Tyagi and Jenny South



Tom Lafford



Jenny Sunderland



Christina Fearon and Michelle Greasley



Sophie Randall, Hema Saigal, Neal Ganatra, Niharika Tyagi, Manish Patel and Amanda Davies



Natalie Greasley and Clare Carpenter



Cong Chen, Niharika Tyagi and Angela Patterson



Clare Carpenter and Christina Fearon



Will Simpson and Hema Saigal

Careers: Guiding and Inspiring current students



Jacob Philips [OL'10]

OLs following a variety of careers continue to offer their assistance to the current students of Leicester Grammar School, sharing professional expertise and offering guidance at the various talks and events throughout the academic year.

In the highly competitive job market it is becoming increasingly important for students to be well informed and prepared for the world of work. Students are encouraged to think carefully about their career development path and advice from current practitioners is an important part of this.

Over the last year we have seen many OLs contribute in this way: hosting students on a visit to London; giving career presentations and General Studies talks in School; attending the Careers Fair and taking part in the Sixth Form Interview Forum.

Our long term aim is to expand the OL professional database so that the Careers Department would be able to put students in touch with OLs in specific career areas. With this in mind please consider completing the Careers Advice Form which can be found at <http://leicestergrammar.fluencycms.co.uk/Home-Old-Leicestrians> or emailing englandk@leicestergrammar.org.uk if you are able to give any careers support.

Our thanks go to Jamie Anstead [OL'93], James Geary [OL'95], Hemant Patel [OL'96], Nishaan Khoosal [OL'01], Sam Duffield [OL'03], Ruth Atkinson [OL'05], Steven Pozerskis [OL'05], Jake Bradley [OL'06], James Holley [OL'09], Sonam Bhatt [OL'10], Jacob Philips [OL'10], Emma Prowse [OL'10], Eleanor Ringland [OL'10], Henry Green [OL'11], Zan Parwaiz [OL'12], Twishaa Sheth [OL'12] and Abigail Williams [OL'12] who have already contributed in this way.



Abigail Williams [OL'12]



Henry Green [OL'11]

OL Gap Year Award: Mexico

Gwenan Jones
[OL'15]



Oh how easy I thought it would be! To be honest, my exact thoughts were “Oh yeah I’m totally the adventurous-traveller-type”, “Sure I can pick up Spanish in a few weeks” and “Well I do like Tequila”. This was

when I had decided to sign up to volunteer at a Salvation Army Children’s Centre for 3 months whilst living with a host family in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

In reality, there have been times when I’ve felt so lonely and homesick in the midst of rural Mexican life that I was ready to book the next flight back to Heathrow. At times I thought I wouldn’t make

it home alive when lost on a night bus or in the biggest market in Central America.

Yet, four weeks into my stay a silver dolphin fin has flashed at me from the Pacific waves during a sunset fishing trip and I’ve danced to Michael Jackson atop a beach club’s bar counter with a grandmother, mother and granddaughter.

Granted, gap year voyages and particularly solo travel aren’t for everyone (and I value my time spent working in Leicester at the start of this year just as much) - but you might be surprised by how adventurous you can be. Worst case scenario is to pack your bags and book the next ticket home. Best case scenario is that you can discover a resilience, confidence and unending curiosity you never knew you had.

OL Award: Fiji

Matt Letts [OL'10]

I am currently a final year student studying Medicine at the University of Cambridge and last summer I travelled to Fiji for 7 weeks to carry out my elective placement. I spent the first three weeks working with a charity called Medical Services Pacific (MSP), and then the next four weeks working at Sigatoka sub-divisional hospital.

MSP is an NGO that conducts outreach clinics in rural communities to educate people and provide basic medical services. During my three weeks with them, I gave talks on family planning, contraception and sexual health, and also helped to run one-stop clinics for people to have their blood pressure/glucose measured and discuss any health concerns that they might have.

For the other four weeks I worked with

Sigatoka hospital’s schools team, a group that annually checks the health of every child in the region. It was my job to listen to the children’s hearts for abnormalities, in particular rheumatic heart disease. This is very prevalent in Fiji, and is devastating if not picked up early.

I am very grateful to the Old Leicestrians for supporting my trip, the whole of which was rewarding, educating and thoroughly enjoyable. I now have memories that I will never forget.



Matt Letts far left

News: OL Family

2013 saw our first 'second generation' OL leave the school. Here, mother Lynda (nee Claricoates) Turner [OL'87] and Emily Turner [OL'13] compare their time at LGS:

Lynda:

In 1981 the building had lots of original features, it still had corridors underground and there was an entrance on Applegate. Over time these were both blocked up. In my time there was only the one building.

The playground in St Nicholas was initially where staff used to park their cars. There was only room to stand around and chat! When it first opened there were only 96 pupils so everybody knew everybody else from first form to fourth form.

I joined the lunchtime maths club run by Mrs Hughes for the first few terms. I tried drama club with Mr Long and I was a long term member of the choir run by Dr Roberts. Unable to read music I just used to copy what everyone else sounded like.

Towards the end of my time Mr Stengel was our A-level German teacher. He would provide us with coffee in our lessons and on a visit to Birmingham University, took the UVI German group together with Mr Robinson to a Greek restaurant for lunch.

My favourite school trip was in the sixth form - there was a school raffle and the form that sold the most tickets won a trip to Alton Towers. The Prep Form won but myself and my friends Rita Patel and Cilla Bourne managed to get to go along supposedly to help out with the Prep Form but we weren't needed so had a great day on the rides. Memorable, but for other reasons, was the trip to Wanlip sewage works - very fragrant and amusing to 12 year olds!



Emily:

Having spent the first 3 years of my LGS school life traipsing to games lessons on a coach and walking up what seemed like endless staircases to Lab 9 at the old site it was brilliant to finally have such amazing facilities all in one place. Despite being disappointed that I would not be able to spend my lunchtimes as a sixth former in town I really enjoyed my time in the new building.

I have fond memories of my later school years spent lying on the grass, playing football on the playing fields and building human pyramids. In the sixth form break time was spent in the Red Squirrel Coffee House.

As a keen flautist I took part in various flute groups including concert band with Mr Shaw who was the person who encouraged me to begin the flute in the first place.

My favourite teacher was my Sixth Form personal tutor Mrs Jess. I wasn't sure what I wanted to study and she encouraged me and helped me with my application to follow a slightly unconventional career in horse racing. Without her encouragement I don't think I'd be where I am today.

School services were less cramped when the school moved to the new site. I will never forget my Leavers service marching out of St Nicholas to Onward Christian Soldiers.

My favourite school trip was in 2012 when 15 other sixth form students, Mr King, Dr Crawford, Miss Brown and I went to Tanzania. Volunteering at Pasua High School was an experience I will never forget.



News: OL Project



The OL Project came into being through discussions about how to mark the 40th Anniversary of the School. We are gathering material to incorporate into a four-panel artwork to represent these 40 years but we are focussing

on one decade at a time. So, if you were at School between 1981 and 1991 we would love you to contribute to our first panel. In particular we need photographs, pages from your exercise books, reports etc. We are also keen to have some handwritten memories. A sentence on a friendship, a teacher, a trip or something else that sticks in your memory. These could be sent as colour copies in the post to the OL office via the School address, or emailed as a photograph to englandk@leicestergrammar.org.uk. If anyone has an old bit of uniform sitting in the attic, we would be keen to receive that too. This is an ongoing project and we hope to have four panels of artwork on display by the time we get round to celebrating the 40th Anniversary in 2021. We look forward to hearing from you.

Reunion: Sports Captains

12th June 2015

A reunion of Sports Captains to mark the unveiling of Captains Honours boards for the four major sports, erected in the Pavilion in 2015.



Alison Faire, Joe Caunt, Annie Allum, Catherine Jones and Aaron Lockington



Richard Turnell, Rosemary Swanson and Chris Howe



Alex Henderson and Nicky Laybourne [nee Ward]



Will Hunt, Will Davidson, Aaron Pike and Harry Penfold



Verity Threlfell and Jo Mould



Jim Brunning, Richard Turnell, Richard Muggleston and Matt O'Kane

Sport: Varsity Cricket

During the summer of 2015 there was some excellent news for cricket at Leicester Grammar School. The school now has its first 1st Class Cricketer in Avish Patel [OL'12]. Whilst at School Avish captained the 1st XI to a County Cup final in 2010. His first class debut came when he played for Cambridge University in the Varsity Match versus Oxford at Lords and scored 61 and took 5 for 84. A performance of which anyone would be proud.



Sport: Marathon



Congratulations to all our OLs who completed the London Marathon this year. Mark Sains [OL'98], completed the course in an outstanding 2:45:20. Nathalie Shenton [OL'05] and Rhoda Sell [OL'07] also completed the course in under 4 hours 45 minutes,

Sport: Rugby World Cup 2015 & LGS



Harry Thacker, Harry Ellis, Ed Milne, Will Greenwood, George Catchpole, Dan Hogan, Charlie Thacker

The Rugby World Cup made its way to the Grammar School during August 2015 when pupils and parents were invited to join us and have their photo taken with the Webb Ellis Cup as part of the World Cup Trophy Tour. It was great to see our rugby OLs join Will Greenwood (World Cup Winner 2003) for a photo opportunity.

Chris Howe
[Director of Sport]

Later in the same year, having successfully applied to be Team Base for Rugby World Cup 2015, the school hosted the Canadian team. A squad of 31 players and support staff based themselves at school for their group games versus Italy and Romania. Our groundstaff produced superb facilities for the team training sessions, having had the 1st XV pitch rated at 'stadium standard'. The Canadians commented that it was the best surface they had ever played or trained on. The Dance Studio was temporarily converted into a heavy weights area and the Pavilion Lounge was used as their Team Room. The squad were a delight to host and, as the only team at RWC 2015 who did not require their training pitch to be screened off, were happy for the school and visitors to view open training sessions. A number of local schools and parents took advantage of our invitation to attend. A special school assembly was staged where the Canadian team sang their national anthem and gifts were exchanged.

The team represented their country with great pride and we would be delighted for them to return at any stage in the future.

