



Old Leicestrian Newsletter

Trinity 2012

Welcome to the Old Leicestrian Newsletter

Ron Berry
Katie England

We hope you like the look of this new style newsletter. It is one of many changes that have taken place this year. The OL Association has lost momentum over the last 10 years, despite the efforts of a few dedicated supporters, particularly Rob Jameson [OL'00] (Treasurer) and Simon Redman who have worked valiantly to keep things moving. In order to make the committee a more effective decision-making body, it was decided to enlist the services of OLs who are also members of the teaching staff. The committee now consists of Rob, Peter Cox [OL'07], Zoe Williamson (Cosciani) [OL'91], Darren Pilbeam [OL'96], Carl James [OL'00] and Katherine Douglas (Staunton) [OL'92]. In addition to the team above, Messrs Handford and Roebuck have continued to be trustees. Recently, Simon Redman has decided to step down from the committee after organising a very successful 'Class of 94/95' event. We would like to thank him on your behalf for the energy he has shown over the years.

The OLs enjoy good participation from those who left in the first 20 years. It has been much more difficult to attract recent leavers to attend

events. To that end we have organised a 'Back to University' evening at the City Rooms in town in September. A heartening sign, however, is the increasing number of OLs who are choosing to enrol their children in both LGJS and LGS.

We want to stress that the OLs exists for the mutual benefit of School and former students. We hope that we can put present students and more recent leavers in touch with OLs who might be willing to offer careers advice and the benefit of their experience. We also hope that some of you will be willing to talk to sixth formers in school or exhibit at the biennial Careers Convention. To this end we would be grateful if you could complete the enclosed questionnaire about your career.

Finally we would like to extend an invitation to all of you to call in at the school and see us at any time. It is always a great joy to staff to make contact with former students. We look forward to meeting many of you at OL events over the next year (details of which are on the back page of this newsletter).

Valete... so it's 'Goodbye' from them!

Tim Cawston

From an interview in a dimly lit wreck of a Victorian school building back in February 1981 to the splendour of 78 acres in Great Glen, yours truly and LGS have had a wonderful journey together. Never entirely smooth - in fact far from it at times - but certainly never dull!

I didn't envisage a 31 year stay, but that's how it turned out.

I have so many fond memories that I could not do them justice in a newsletter - instead you will have to wait for the publication of "LGS - the untold story"!



A recent reunion of 1994/5 leavers, organised by Simon Redman, Ron Berry and Katie England, proved to me how much former students appreciate LGS and what it means to them and I look forward to many more similar occasions in the years to come, for an active OLs is an essential part of the School's development.

As you can imagine LGS means a great deal to me and in retirement I shall monitor its continued progress. There cannot be many greater success stories of its type locally or indeed nationally and to have played a part has been an honour.



Catrina Young

It feels very peculiar to be leaving LGS to go to Dixie Grammar School as Deputy Head, - it has been a very significant part of my life having now been here longer than the time I spent at my own school.

Most of my time here was spent in the cramped conditions of Room 6 in the St Nicholas building - what an irony that, now I have a huge teaching room and a view of fields from my window, I'm leaving. I remember a GCSE class

persuading me to let them stand in the yard as the snow fell because, 'they were somebody's Oliver'!!

I have made some really good friends at LGS and have genuinely enjoyed almost all the students I have been lucky enough to teach -

even the stropky argumentative ones; especially the stropky, argumentative ones. I only just got to know Mrs Entwistle before she retired but remember clearly the challenges of trying to keep Mr Hanson in order - you know he didn't leave to run a bar in New Zealand! Mr Clayton has the dubious honour of being the only man to ever get me to dress up and sing in public!

I've always maintained that teaching RS is the best - watching young people develop their thoughts on vital issues is a real privilege and one I will always treasure. Meanwhile I will be getting the hankies ready for Onward Christian Soldiers.

All who know me know that my two boys (and their father) are my world - there is no other job that would have pulled me away from them. Thank you to all those I taught; I've learnt from you all and to all my colleagues; you've helped me love coming to work (most of the time!).

Valete cont...

Anne Price

I never meant to stay for 23 years. It just happened. First of all there was the shopping in town, and the cafes, oh, and the library. Then there was the swimming pool and the gym. Then one day I thought that I had done enough physics and I wanted to concentrate on me doing the learning. Teaching physics is still fun (naturally), and teaching you was brilliant. Yes, even you who sat at the back and never handed homework in. I have had so much fun. I have

made good friends (chick, ted and mad cow in particular) and had a great time - apart from the marking and the reports. For those of you who left years ago, the experiments still don't work. I am currently doing a degree in English Literature, and then I plan to do psychology (or perhaps the history of art) with a degree in maths on the side. Thank you for the jokes, the funny answers you wrote, being appreciative and enjoying lessons. You were the best.



Barbara Pantton

I joined LGS in 2000, unsure what to expect after a long break since my first post in a school and after many years teaching in adult education. I realise now as I start retirement that fate had saved the best until last. I enjoyed teaching adults but working in a school is far more satisfying. There have been so many pleasures, such as watching someone progress from Prep to Sixth form, marathon three hour coach journeys to Bath, Classics trips and more.

It has been a real pleasure to share the delights of the Latin and Greek languages (though I felt a tear recently as I realised that I had read about the end of Caecilius with Year 7 for the final time) and the variety of subjects covered by Classical Civilisation. However it is time to move on, albeit reluctantly, as I have many interests which I intend to pursue, such as painting and learning more languages, and of course travel. I have many happy memories to take away with me.



Brenda Wallwork

Some memories of LGS:

- So little outside space that staff had to park in the local multi-storey car park.
- Walking through the streets of Leicester in order to move from one class to another and the feeling of freedom it gave.
- Coffee at Almeida and shopping in The Shires (the latter not favoured by my husband).
- The change from a city to a rural school when we moved to Great Glen and the fantastic difference having one's own classroom and space that this meant.
- Most importantly the working together of staff and pupils in a new but growing school with all the challenges it entails.

Things I shall miss:

- The buzz of the classroom.
- The friendships and banter I've enjoyed with both staff and pupils.
- Being part of one of the greatest professions in a successful department.

Things I'm looking forward to:

- Not having to get up at 6.45 every morning.
- Not being dictated to by a bell but having the freedom to plan my own timetable.
- Having more time for friends and family.
- Starting my next phase of life which as yet is a mystery but one I will enjoy like all the others.



Amanda Fraser

I have been with LGS since 2003 and have loved every minute of my time teaching German and French. I believe that the school has an exceptional atmosphere where pupils can flourish and to be part of this has been a

privilege for me for the last 9 years. I was asked once what aspect of work here I would be glad to see the back of - I can honestly say there isn't anything!

Old Leicestrian Awards

Katie England

The OL Committee has a long history of supporting Old Leicestrians after they leave School. OLs who have received an award recently include :

- Emily Davison [OL'11] volunteer in Kenya
- Joe Ward [OL'03] medical elective in India
- Hema Saigal [OL'06] medical elective in India
- Mat Schaaf [OL'03] Oxfam Trailwalker challenge
- Rosie Cavill [OL'09] volunteer in Zambia
- Emily Rowland [OL'07] volunteer for Nature Seychelles

If you wish to be considered for an Award please apply in writing to the Committee with as much information as possible. We may be able to fund your entire project or we may decide to pay for a specific part of your trip. We must point out though that due to high demand and limited funds, we are not always able to provide assistance; those with clear objectives, budgets and involving some element of field work and/or community benefit are more likely to be successful.

Rochdale to Kettering Fundraising Bike Ride

Chris Goodfellow [OL'10]

In the New Year, having managed to celebrate Christmas without Granddad I remembered a story he had once told me from his childhood, the inspiration for doing our sponsored cycle ride. Barely a teenager, Norman Goodfellow was relocated to Rochdale, from Kettering, with his father. Unhappy with this decision he cycled back to Kettering, sleeping rough as he went.



Myself, my sister and cousin planned a cycle ride over 3 days, stopping over in Buxton and Markfield. I took the train to Rochdale, during which I very nearly found myself under a Biffa lorry on the ride between the stations of Piccadilly and Victoria - a pleasant welcome to Manchester. I made it to Rochdale unscathed, but rain was looming and all I wanted to do was go home – just like Granddad had done.

From Rochdale, we rode down the canal into the centre of Manchester, before turning sharply onto the Ashton canal and then a cycleway, in the direction of Stockport. I successfully navigated us through the streets of Stockport and onto a country lane that would lead us into Derbyshire. Having stopped to ask direction (yes, lost), we found ourselves on what we were told was the “7 mile hill”. Two hours and a few tears later we found ourself with awesome views over Derbyshire and most importantly, a view of Buxton. 2 miles and no more than 5 minutes later, we were at our B&B for the evening.

The following day our route took us through rural Derbyshire. We skirted around the edge of Derby before dropping into North Leicestershire, heading for Markfield. By the time we arrived at our Travelodge, we'd clocked 70 miles. A well earned Chinese was purchased and consumed in record time.

Our much shorter final day took us from Markfield, through Leicester City Centre, Oadby and onto Market Harborough. By mid afternoon we had arrived in Kettering, welcomed by our family.

We successfully raised over £1650 for Cransley Hospice. Many thanks go to the OLs for helping us on our way, and also to everyone else who has contributed towards our efforts.

Old Leicestrians return to LGS

Richard Longson
& Trevor Allen

The year has seen a number of OLs return to school to speak to our current students. The General Studies course has heard Vicky Symonds [OL'03] talking about Diverse Approaches to Caring and Kyle Barber [OL'02] speaking about Drug Testing in Sport.

Matt Gee [OL'01] has also kindly donated some of his time and returned to give students an insight into his world via a music workshop.

Charles Paterson &
Dr Rupert Thompson
[OL'90]

Others who have offered careers advice include Dr Sam Duffield [OL'03] who spoke about a career in Medicine, Jitesh Singla [OL'94] about a

career in Business, Sushma Jansari [OL'00] who gave a Classics lecture entitled 'Lyceums and Museums: Careers in Academia', Gavin Davies [OL'99] who spoke about apprenticeships at Rolls Royce and Dr Rupert Thompson [OL'90] who asked the question 'Why is Greek still spoken but Latin isn't?'.
The biennial Careers Convention was yet again a success and the support and commitment of the OLs in making themselves available for the Convention was very much appreciated. The event was attended by over 500 students all looking to gain an insight into the various universities, organisations and institutes and the opportunities open to them on leaving LGS.

Special thanks go to : Simon Baigent [OL'84], Rita Patel [OL'87], Joe Bakowski [OL'88], Jonathan Langley [OL'90], Matt Brunning [OL'92], Katharine (Staunton) Douglas [OL'92], Ed White [OL'92], Robert Collier [OL'93], Dr Daniel Barnes [OL'94], Matt O'Kane [OL'95], Surina Hindocha [OL'99], Dr Simon Tarsha [OL'00], Richard Neilson [OL'01], Dan Thomas [OL'01], Richard Carter [OL'04], Steve Pozerskis [OL'05], Aaron Yates [OL'05], Peter Cox [OL'07] and Asim Parwaiz [OL'08] for their support.



The power of the OL Hoodie



Liesl (James) Houghton
[OL'88]

Last week I went on holiday to Shanghai to see my brother and, as I stepped off the plane, someone said, 'I have to say hello.' The man in front of me did not appear familiar, but he went on to say, 'The minute you got on the plane at Heathrow I knew I had to say hello, as you are wearing the OL Hoodie, with Leicester Grammar School on the back'. I had to confess that even though I was pleased to be a great advert for the school, it was simply my warmest hoodie. He then said, 'I am the headmaster of Leicester Grammar'. So I replied, 'you must be

Chris King. Good to meet you. I am glad to be your advertisement!'

It was a lovely beginning to the holiday, knowing that you can be noticed thousands of miles away, by people you have never even met; all because of an OL Hoodie!

Reunion Carol Service Dec 2011



Kiran Parmar & Nicky Corp



Charles Paterson, Samuel Harvey,
Emily Davison, Sophie Easton, Ron Berry



Sarah Morris, Carl James, Anila James



Nathaniel Rawes, Simrun Virdee, Charlotte Bentley, Fiona Coffee

London Meet, March 2012



Andrew McKinley



Pawan Sharma



Trevor Allen, Josh Orpin, Dan Mooncie,
Will Pitchers & Felicity Warnock



Tony Duffield & Ruth Duffield



Felicity Warnock & Ron Berry

Class of '94 & '95, April 2012

Through the drive and initiative of Simon Redman [OL'94], the OLs hosted a successful 'Class of 94 & 95' Reunion in the Pavilion at LGS. Over 50 people turned out for a tour round the school, embarrassing photo display, children's entertainment, hog roast and disco.

If you would like your year group to have a reunion then get in touch – we'll provide the venue and all the trimmings – you generate the interest!



Natasha Lewis, Helen (Oatway) Smith, Verica Djurdjevic



Jatinder Singh



Rebecca (Herbert) Wesley



Judith Hughes, Rosemary Hall,
Nick Ralph, James Harbidge



Joanne (Richardson) Williams
& Charlotte Farrar



Giles Godfrey & Natasha Lewis



Peter Handford & Phil Taylor



Lucy Worsley &
Emma (Needham) Plunkett



Simon Redman

Appeal

Immy finds her feet

Katharine Douglas
[OL'92]

Imogen is the six year-old daughter of Susan Hurrell (Robinson) [OL'92].

She was diagnosed in infancy with cerebral palsy, a condition caused by damage to the brain. Imogen suffers from severe muscle stiffness, affecting her ability to stand and walk. She has a powered wheelchair to give her more independence and attends a mainstream school.

Imogen's parents have been raising money to take her to the USA for a life-changing operation on her legs. The surgery will be followed immediately by intensive physiotherapy, and she will need to work very hard to develop strength and control in her muscles.



The surgery, plus travel, accommodation and physiotherapy will cost around £40,000.

The family has set up a fundraising campaign and has roped in generous friends and family to help raise the money to go to America. It would be fantastic if Leicester Grammar, as Sue's old school, could support her in her efforts.

Please look at www.immyfindsherfeet.com for more information on how to donate. This is very easy, and can be done directly to the family online or by cheque, or via PayPal.

Business



Kiran Parmar (OL'04)

Upon leaving LGS I went on to study Mechanical Engineering at Manchester University. After two years I realised that it was not for me and dropped out of the course, and moved back to my parents' house in Leicester. I was really lost with what to do as a job. My father restores old buildings and was doing a project in Leicester City Centre at the time called The City Rooms. His plan was to restore the building to its former glory, a beautiful Georgian Grade 1 listed hotel and then rent it out to another party to trade from it. I had already worked there during my Summer and Christmas breaks whilst I was at University to save to go travelling, so I went back there immediately to work on the building site full time as a labourer.

After the building had neared completion we had little interest from people wishing to rent The City Rooms and had little option but to start trading from the building ourselves. However my Dad entrusted me with running the business, which was something really big considering that we were just about to enter the recession, had

little working capital, and the building wasn't complete. I took over as the managing director and employed an event manager immediately and started trading as a banqueting venue. Within a few months we were already receiving fantastic feedback and referrals and the business was blooming. We have just celebrated our 5th birthday party and have bookings confirmed until 2014.

Being one of the few independent banqueting venues in Leicester City Centre, we have now carved out a niche as a boutique venue. The main part of our business comes from Weddings, Conferences, Bedrooms and Private Functions. Since our launch, we have gone from having a handful of staff, to over 30 staff, and we now cater for over 300 events a year.

Last month I also launched two new wedding related ventures, a wedding website called www.weddingdays.co.uk and a wedding car hire company that will operate from within The City Rooms.

Focus:

Careers in Music



James Oldfield [OL'00]

After I left LGS in 2000 I went up to Trinity College, Cambridge as a Choral Scholar and read Geography. University was far more about music-making than studying! Thereafter I spent a few years singing in professional choirs such as the Monteverdi Choir and Polyphony, gaining much needed experience and contacts, and galvanizing my resolve to make a career out of singing. In 2006 I began studying at the Royal College of Music, concentrating on solo performance, firstly as a postgraduate in vocal studies and then in the Opera School. I graduated in 2009, and since then have made my debuts with the Royal Opera House, Garsington Opera, Opera North and Gothenburg Opera.

It is difficult being away from home so much, but my wife is a music teacher and understands that the absence is a necessity. It is very rarely a glamorous life, and whilst I do get to travel to exotic locations now and again, one airport looks

very similar to another. Singing is a profession with fallow periods and then great flurries of activity. The key to being a success is to use the time between jobs to learn new repertoire and have coaching and lessons, rather than resting on one's laurels. Rehearsal periods for a UK company are generally four or five weeks, but any given day is rarely longer than two three-hour sessions.

It always amazes me what a large proportion of opera singers trained in this country have had a similar path into the singing profession: trained as choristers at cathedrals or churches then as choral scholars, followed by a honing of that training at a conservatoire. That means that many of one's colleagues have a similar outlook on life, or even are great friends whom one has known since university, which always means convivial company and good music-making.



Andrew Kirk [OL '88]

My main musical interest during school years was singing at St James the Greater Church. I had the opportunity to travel to the USA twice in 1980 and 1984, to Europe, as well as our residential weeks at English cathedrals. In January 2013, I look forward to directing the Royal School of Church Music Summer School in South Africa.

In the Great Hall at LGS, there was a rather idiosyncratic electronic organ to accompany hymns in assemblies, and by the age of 16, I was allowed to play. A disguised version of a TV theme tune would sometimes accompany the headmaster ('Higgy') as he walked onto the stage. A good sense of humour is useful for the music profession, (especially when working with choirs!).

I was fortunate to win an Organ Scholarship to Pembroke College, Oxford to study music. Those three years gave me a lot of independence and

fulfilment. After a PGCE at Leeds, I went to Perth, Western Australia for two years as Assistant Organist at St George's Cathedral. Since then I have divided my time between working with church choirs, part-time school teaching and freelance concert work.

My main source of income now is at St Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol where I direct the choirs. I am fairly flexible in how I structure my day and this is often a bonus. There are some frustrations – the hours can be unsociable with evening or weekend rehearsals, services and concerts but it is good to be able to take time off at other times of the week when others are working.

I would recommend a career in music but keeping an open mind and some flexibility is essential, as well as getting used to a smaller salary than many other professions!

Careers in Music cont...



Ben Giddens [OL '04]

After leaving LGS in 2004 I was offered the organ scholarship at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. This experience allowed me to have a year just to focus on my organ playing without the pressure of academic work.

After leaving Windsor I moved to Norwich where I studied at the UEA and held the organ scholarship at Norwich Cathedral. This was a post that lasted for three years and gave the opportunity to work at the Cathedral alongside studying for my degree. Whilst at Norwich I had the chance to tour to Malta and the USA as well as performing live on BBC Radio 3.

Upon leaving University I was invited to return to St George's, Windsor as Acting Assistant Organist. The job was rewarding and required the highest standards of performance. A lot of evening practice (6-10pm) was required in order to accommodate the millions of tourists who visit every year. This was one of the more frustrating

elements of the post with hours spent alone in the Chapel.

At the time of writing I have just spent 3 years as Assistant Organist at Magdalen College, Oxford and I teach the piano at Magdalen College School. This post has allowed me to continue to perform on a daily basis but also to focus on choral directing. The College provides me with organ and conducting lessons free of charge. One downside of the post is the long hours, normally a twelve hour day starting at 7.30am and finishing just after 7pm!

For anyone wishing to pursue a career in music, I would recommend gaining some experience in their particular field whilst still at school, I started with regular Church organ playing at weekends. Professional development is a key factor in music and maintaining high standards.



Matt Gee [OL '01]

Doing a job that you love is a dream for many. Working as a professional musician was my ambition since school, and at 29 I am now in my fourth job as principal trombone with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Aurora Orchestra, doing what I love every day.

No two weeks are the same; A Symphonic Rock gig might follow Heldenleben, add in some recording sessions and a couple of days abroad and that is all in one week! Since September 2011 I started a part-time specialised Masters in solo performance at the Hochschule der Künste, Bern. I now spend one week per month taking lessons and performing. From September 2012 I am about to become a professor at the Royal Academy of Music. Life is busy but fantastic!

Most orchestras in London work pro rata, so if there is no work we do not get paid. Twenty to thirty years ago there was an abundance of work, allowing good players to do four or more

sessions of work a day with different orchestras. My predecessors managed to purchase town houses in Knightsbridge, yet we now struggle to even get a mortgage! Today's pay has not increased much from the 1960s/70s: musicians who recorded the first Star Wars soundtrack were paid almost the same wage as those who recorded the last, nearly thirty years later! Although the amount of film session recording in London has rapidly diminished, it is still a significant and sought-after branch of the London music scene. Having played on the last two Harry Potter films, these, and similar Abbey Road sessions, can make up an important part of your work.

The music scene is always in flux. To make something of it you must shift with it and create your own opportunities. Very little is ever given to you. It takes hours of practice, dedication, and the occasional drink with the right person, but to wake-up every day looking forward to work is magical!

Careers in Music cont...



Suzanne Doyle
[OL '02]

After leaving LGS in 2002 I studied Music, specialising in performance, at the University of Birmingham. There I organised a European tour for the University Orchestra, discovering an affinity for administration. After graduating, I was offered an internship with a classical music agency in Cambridge which formed the foundation for my career in the arts. I subsequently moved to London and worked for baroque ensemble The King's Consort and then The Sixteen, where I spent 3 years as Concerts and Tours Manager. In 2010 I took up my current position as Tours Manager for the agency International Classical Artists, working with many of the world's great orchestras, selling tours, arranging logistics and - my favourite part - going on the road, ensuring everyone's in the right place at the right time (I haven't left anyone behind...yet!).

I've toured throughout the world and enjoy the travelling, especially when I have a rare free day to explore my surroundings, but touring is

exhausting and pretty unglamorous; I normally travel ahead of the orchestra, check that the venue, hotel etc are ready, and meet groups off their flights, all whilst dealing with my own jet lag! I also look after VIPs, conductors and soloists, checking their riders are met and accompanying them to post-concert dinners (contrary to popular belief, conductors are fantastically down-to-earth people, often happy to discuss normal day-to-day life; I've had several conversations with top conductors about LCFC's glory years!).

I've lost track of how many hotels and airports I've visited, but being surrounded by such talented musicians is a privilege; I've worked with Filarmonica della Scala, Royal Concertgebouw, LSO, Dresden Staatskapelle and Leipzig Gewandhaus and am currently preparing for a tour to South America. In whatever free time I have I play in local orchestras and attend as many LCFC and Tigers games as possible.



Christopher Glynn
(Hughes) [OL '93]

I have happy memories of music at LGS. Quite a lot of school life in those days seemed to come with organ accompaniment - assemblies, services in the cathedral - and I was encouraged to take my turn with the various organ-playing members of staff on the organ bench to play hymns and voluntaries. Indeed, one could hardly imagine the then headmaster swirling down the aisle to any other kind of accompaniment. I remember well the first time I was pushed onto the organ bench for assembly protesting that I didn't have any music, and being told in reply to 'just make it up as you go along then!'

David Whittle instinctively understood that the best way for young musicians to develop was by 'doing it' and was superbly encouraging. Academic music lessons I remember as being delightfully unacademic - Mr Whittle usually being fairly easily persuaded to abandon the core of the syllabus in favour of the finer points of big band orchestration, discussion of his

favourite novels, a few pointers in ornithology, debates on the merits of real ale and other assorted enthusiasms of the moment.

I was awarded an organ scholarship at New College, Oxford and while there I discovered the songs of Schubert which set me on the path I have followed ever since, as a pianist and accompanist. I've been lucky enough to carve out a niche for myself in the professional world and now combine my playing with the post of Artistic Director of the Ryedale Festival.

I'm sure many professional musicians will recognise the element of 'making it up as you go along' involved in any musical career. Those who really want to pursue it will not be deterred and will always remember those who helped them on their way. I remain very thankful to whomever it was that pushed me onto the organ bench that day and to the superb musical start to life I found at LGS.

Careers in Music cont...



Stephanie Edwards
[OL'02]

Since leaving LGS in 2002 I embarked on a very exciting but uncertain career path as an opera singer. Having gained an entrance scholarship to commence a four year BMus(hons) degree to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama specialising in Voice, I graduated in 2006 with a 1st.

Whilst studying, I was a scholar and regular soloist with the BBC National Chorus of Wales and recorded the role of Second Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* with Charles Hazlewood for his 'Discovering Music' series on BBC Radio 3. I also performed various roles with the Welsh National Youth Opera and RWCMD.

In 2005 I represented RWCMD at La Mortella on the Isle of Ischia, Italy, in the opening concert of Lady Walton's summer programme performing a select number of William Walton's vocal music.

After graduating I moved to London and studied at the Royal College of Music for two years as a postgraduate.

Since leaving College, I have toured with English Touring Opera, was a soloist at the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, which was attended by Prince William and Kate and have recently completed a new production of *Don Giovanni* at Heaven Nightclub in London.

In September I shall be commencing further studies at the Wales International Academy of Voice with the world renowned Tenor, Dennis O'Neill on the Masters in Advanced Vocal Studies course.

Olympic Legacy

Jo Mould

Many of you may be aware that I competed at an Olympic Games, in Atlanta 1996. I don't think I realised at the time how privileged I was - very few people have this opportunity. The Olympic Games is quite often the pinnacle of a sportsman or sportswoman's career; something they may have striven towards for many years. This is why, here at School, we are trying to engender a positive approach to the forthcoming Games of London 2012.

The most significant contribution has been the artwork which hangs in the refectory - everyone in school was invited to create a small square which reflected their interpretation of the Olympic/Paralympic values. These squares were then joined together in an Olympic-themed design.



National Science Week activities were based on the Olympics; Year 9 history coursework revolved around the infamous Berlin Games of 1936; the Classics trip visited Olympia; the Prep Form 'Walked The World' as part of the cultural Olympiad; special assemblies have taken place; the Olympic rings have appeared on the grass boundaries of the school fields and there is still more to come.

Have we created a legacy? I guess I will never know! Have we developed an enthusiasm for the Games? I definitely think so. But the question I hope that can be answered positively would revolve around the values - are we encouraging the next generation to think about these as a mantra for life? I definitely hope so. The values of Determination, Inspiration, Courage, Equality, Excellence, Respect and Friendship can serve you well whether on the sports fields or in life - in themselves they make the London Olympic Games a worthwhile spectacle - oh and there might be some cracking sport too!