



Old Leicestrian Newsletter



The New School Entrance

7.2

Lent 2008

2009

London Road, Leicester LE8 9FL Tel: (0116) 259 1900 Fax: (0116) 259 1901
E-Mail: oldleicestrians@leicestergrammar.org.uk

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From The Chairman

SIMON REDMAN

As you are all no doubt aware, 2008 has been a time of great change for Leicester Grammar School. After a number of years in the city centre, it has moved wholesale to a purpose built site in the Leicestershire countryside.

This marks the beginning of a new era for LGS but it is important that links continue to be maintained with ex pupils and it is with this in mind that we hope to offer reunion events on an ongoing basis both in the city and, with the permission of the school, at the new campus.

The new buildings are an incredible facility and the school is rightly proud of them. I would urge all OLs to try to attend the summer sports fixtures and picnic so they can see for themselves just how far the school has come since its modest beginnings in the early eighties. I am also sure that in years to come the Great Glen site will be just as resonant for current pupils as Peacock Lane is for us.

Forthcoming Events

**OL XI v 1ST XI
CRICKET MATCH
TRINITY TERM :
Monday 29th June 2009**

Cricket and a picnic in the shadow of the Pavilion – what more could you want on a summer's afternoon? This year, weather permitting, the OL's will dust off their whites and take on the current 1st XI. Play will start at 2.30pm and with a completion time of about 6.30pm. Bring a picnic and mingle with friends in the pavilion.

If you are interested in playing, email me your details and I'll pass them on to Michael Potter (OL '08) who has kindly been nominated to co-ordinate the OL effort!

Ladies, if you would be interested in a game of Netball let me know and I'll lay down the challenge to the school team!

**CAROL SERVICE
ADVENT TERM :
December 2009**

This year the Carol Service was a little different and I fear that many OL's may not have had any communication regarding the service. It has been an extremely busy Advent term and what with us sharing the service with the School meant details weren't finalised early enough for us to mail everyone – for this, please accept our apologies. As soon as a date for 2009 is fixed it will appear on the OL pages of the website, you will hear about it through the e-bulletin (if we have your email address) or via the post.

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Headmaster's Letter

C P M KING

The new Leicester Grammar senior and junior schools were officially opened on 4th December by Her Majesty, The Queen and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh. The scheme itself was delivered on schedule and within budget and the doors opened for the first day of term on Monday 15th September 2008.

The £30 million project has created the finest, new, independent school building in the country.

The schools will only be increasing their numbers by the equivalent of one extra form in each year. This extra form will mean up to 18 places being available in each junior school form (reception to Year 6) and 24 additional places in the senior school from Years 7 to 11. Applications for places for September 2009 at the junior school are already well in advance of anticipated demand at this early stage.

Both schools now benefit from the 75 acres of grass playing fields, two floodlit all-weather pitches and eight additional hard tennis courts. The indoor sports complex has a main hall to accommodate six badminton courts, a six lane, 25 metre swimming pool as well as a fitness suite

and gymnasium. There is car parking for 170 vehicles at the site.

The main building has a large library at its centre with a drama studio, recital room and main assembly hall capable of seating an audience of 700 for a major orchestral concert. The campus is fully networked and there has been a significant additional investment in computer hardware, interactive whiteboards and projectors. The sixth form lounge provides a focus for the senior pupils and the main refectory provides refreshments from early in the morning until well after the end of the timetabled day.

The two schools have functioned very well at the new site and the recent combined Open Day saw well over 1000 visitors new to the school come through the doors. OLs are always welcome to visit the new site and many have already done so, combining visits with watching sports fixtures or musical performances.



Old Leicestrian Hoodies

Old Leicestrian hoodies are now available for sale. Available in light blue (Judges), red (Dukes), navy (Masters) and green (VC's) and in sizes small to extra, extra large they are priced £15.

If you would like a hoodie go to the website, or email us at oldleicestrians@leicestergrammar.org.uk, for see a size guide and colour chart.

If you are able you can come and collect your hoodie from School or we can pop one in the post to you, just add £2 to your order to cover postage.

Queen officially opens LGS

Her Majesty the Queen officially opened Leicester Grammar School on Thursday 4th December surrounded by staff, pupils and guests. Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh they finished their tour to Leicestershire by visiting the school and were enthusiastically received by pupils from both the Leicester Grammar Junior School and the Great Glen Primary School. A trumpet fanfare signalled their



Children from Leicester Grammar Junior School and St.Cuthbert's Primary School Great Glen greet Her Majesty

arrival to the rest of the school whilst the Royal Party were escorted to the Hall by the Head Boy and Girl. After the singing of the national anthem the Chairman of Governors welcomed the Queen and Prince Philip to the School. The choir and ensemble performed a couple of pieces before the Royal Party went their separate ways.



With The Headmaster and David Whittle, Director of Music



Head Girl Rachel Hemingway and Head Boy James Holley are presented

The Queen was shown to the recital room where she listened to a short performance by the school's Dance Band. She then paid a visit to the Junior School and received a posy from the junior Head boy and Girl.



Unveiling the plaque

Meanwhile the Duke of Edinburgh was shown to the Drama Studio and was invited to watch a group of drama students in rehearsal. He was then taken to the Library where he sat through a presentation by a small group of D of E Gold Award students and then presented 13 students with their Bronze Awards.



After finishing their respective tours of the school the Headmaster thanked Her Majesty and His Royal Highness for their visit and invited the Queen to unveil a commemorative plaque. Before leaving they both signed the Visitors' book then were enthusiastically waved off by students from Years 8 to 13.



With GCSE and A Level Art students



Meeting Duke of Edinburgh Award participants



With Annette Griffin, Head of Drama



Leaving the school and meeting pupils



Final Trip Down Memory Lane

Saturday, 21st June, 2008



Saturday 21st June saw Leicester Grammar School open its doors to all OL's to say their final farewells to the city centre site.

Over 300 OL's, with representatives from all years, turned up to have one final look round the St Nicholas building. As well as being able to relive some memories, they took the opportunity to look through some sporting photos and meet old friends and former staff.

Copies of the 'Harriet' and 'Name this Space' were handed over to the archives, and my thanks must go to Mrs Felstead who has kept every bit of LGS paperwork and memorabilia relating to Chris (OL '91) and Victoria (OL '93)! Also a gold star was awarded to Tom Philips (OL '00) for having kept his school blazer and for still being able to fit into it.

Once friends had said goodbye and the doors to St Nicks were closed, OL's, parents and former staff moved on down to Greyfriars for a hog-roast. Unfortunately the house rounders had to be postponed due to the weather but the hog-roast was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to all OL's, former staff and parents who joined us for the afternoon and my personal thanks to Emma Blackmore and Katharine Staunton for making the day a great success.

WE WILL ROCK YOU TICKET OFFER FOR OL'S

Joseph Connor (OL '06) has written to extend a deal to any OL's for discounted top priced tickets for We Will Rock You the Queen Musical. The price of a top price ticket, from the theatre, is set at £60 but because of the hype of the show tickets are hard to get hold of directly from the box office. This means people go to the ticket agents and can pay upwards of £90 for a ticket that is only worth £60 at face value.

Being a part of the cast Joseph has a ticket deal, which is as follows:

Monday to Thursday, best seats in the house is reduced from £60 to £27.50

Friday, Sat Matinee and Sat Evening shows are at the usual £60 - but are guaranteed seats. (Box office will tell you we are sold out these days until mid 2009, but special house seats are reserved for cast so they are guaranteed.)

Joseph is willing to sort tickets out for anyone who wishes to see the show anytime. If you are real Queen fans, you could check out the calendar on the We Will Rock You Official Website to see when Brian May plays on stage live.

So if you are interested you can contact Joseph on:

EMAIL: josephconnor@hotmail.co.uk

WRITE TO: Joseph Connor, c/o Stage Door, The Dominion Theatre, 268-269 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 7AQ

(Joseph will need contact info to confirm booking)

OL's @ Great Glen

The Old Leicestrians may not have had their first official event at the school but there are a few memories of old LGS that are already in situ. Alongside an ever expanding archive, the Taylor organ has been relocated and refurbished through the sponsorship of the Old Leicestrians. Originally installed at the Alderman Newton's school in 1926, it moved with the Alderman Newton's to Glenfield, then back to its former site under the care of LGS to stop it from falling into ruin. It now formally resides in the hall, which was dedicated by the Bishop of Leicester on the first day of term to serve also as the School Chapel of St Nicholas.

The second bit of old LGS to be transferred with the school is an image of the Rose window. Unfortunately the original plan to move one of the rose windows from the Great Hall stalled as it was decided the glass was too delicate to move. A decision was made to produce a replica, and with a kind donation from Fred Berry (former OL President), it now has pride of place in St Nicholas behind the altar. Juliet Hemingray Textiles of Derby are currently designing altar frontals which will match the window.

At the official opening of the school Her Majesty the Queen unveiled a plaque which was made from a 100 year old piece of wood which was once an honours board dating back to the days when the old St Nicholas building was the Wyggeston Hospital. It was salvaged and engraved in-house by Dave Gee, Head of Design and Technology.



The Taylor Organ, refurbished and reinstalled

The final OL stamp on the place will be via a donation from the OL's to the school to help furnish an outside seated area at the rear of the Library. This is already proving to be a popular area with students looking for a quiet area to study and a perfect spot to eat their sandwiches!



The new Rose Window

South Africa

TOM WATERFIELD



With the help of the Old Leicestrians I was able to travel to Cape Town, in South Africa, to study paediatrics at the Red Cross Children's hospital. The trip was part of the paediatrics course of my medical degree at Oxford University.

I chose to study at the Red Cross because it is the only dedicated children's hospital in sub-Saharan Africa and has an international reputation for providing a very high standard of care on a modest budget. Whilst at the Red Cross I spent time in the trauma, acute medicine and intensive care units. I was able to assist in operations and help with the day to day running of the wards.

My visit to Cape Town was at the beginning of their winter and as such I saw a large number of children with very severe burns. During the winter months the families in the townships have to rely on oil burners to provide heat and lighting in their one room shacks. One child, a one year old boy that I helped to treat, was typical of the patients admitted at that time of year. The boy was admitted with extensive deep burns over his arms, face and torso that occurred after an oil heater fell into his cot. The boy's injuries were horrific but not unusual.

In addition to gaining experience of paediatric trauma I also gained valuable medical experience. The medical wards were largely dominated by infectious diseases with HIV and TB being two of the biggest sources of morbidity and mortality. The paediatric ITU contained a large number of children with neonatal AIDS. These children failed to gain weight and had often been abandoned by their families. Treating these children was extremely difficult and in most cases the prognosis was extremely poor.

I found working at the Red Cross an extremely rewarding experience and while there were many sad stories, there were also many success stories with children often getting the care and medicines they needed. One such example was a young boy with epilepsy. Prior to receiving treatment he regularly fitted and was unable to tolerate mainstream schooling but with the help of cheap antiepileptic medication he was able to lead a near normal life.

In addition to my time at the Red Cross I also travelled out into the community to understand more about traditional medicine in the area. I visited a local township and met with a traditional medicine man known as a Sangoma. To many of the locals the Sangoma is the logical first step in accessing healthcare and many townships' people are wary of western medicine. The Sangoma explained to me how his knowledge of medicine is inherited from his ancestors and that the inheritance of medical knowledge skips through alternate generations.

The Sangoma wears traditional dress and produces medicines from local plants and from the parts of native animals. During our time together we discussed the treatment of numerous medical conditions ranging from the use of water lily to treat epilepsy through to the use of cleaning rituals to treat female infertility. We also discussed the treatment of HIV and AIDS. The Sangoma informed me that he has no treatment for HIV due to his firm belief

that the disease is a western problem not encountered by his ancestors. This view was mirrored by our guide who explained to me how there is a deep mistrust of western medicine amongst many of the township's people. He explained that many people believe that it is only after testing that people become sick and he went on to explain that there is a stigma with being tested for the disease making the identification of sufferers very difficult.

This results in large number of patients not receiving treatment for the HIV virus therefore resulting in large numbers of people developing AIDS at an early age. The severe immunosuppression seen in patients with AIDS leaves them susceptible to infections such as TB, which is rife in the townships of South Africa. It is the lethal combination of HIV and TB that is responsible for the appalling survival statistics seen in the township regions. In these regions many people die before the age of forty.

Despite the worrying picture painted by the Sangoma and our guide there are some success stories coming out of South Africa. After spending time with the Sangoma I



went on to visit an AIDS initiative in the township. The charity led initiative was set up to allow people to learn and develop new skills that they can use to pay for anti-retroviral (ARV) treatments for themselves and their children.

In addition to spending time learning about modern and traditional South African medicine I was able to find some time to travel around the country and I have to thank the Old Leicestrians for their kind support of my trip.

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Dedication of the School Hall - Monday 15th September, 2008

RICHARD LONGSON

On the first morning of the new term, the Bishop of Leicester came to the school to dedicate the new school hall as a Chapel and to bless the new school buildings.

The new hall / Chapel is dedicated in the name of St Nicholas as a link with the old school buildings, which bore that name. The Headmaster was keen to maintain the continuity from old to new. The name had been given to that building by the first Headmaster, John Higginbotham. This was because of its proximity to St Nicholas Church in Leicester, and I have no doubt to the fact that the great Chapel at Lancing, where he taught before coming to Leicester also bore that dedication. That Chapel in turn bore that dedication as it was the dedication of the Parish Church in Shoreham, Sussex, near to that school

The Bishop first blessed all the buildings and sports' facilities whilst in a procession around the site. He was accompanied in the procession by the Dean of Leicester, Canon Pastor and the Canon Precentor at the Cathedral and by the Vicar of Great

Glen. He then returned to the entrance to the doors of the hall / Chapel and knocked three times with his pastoral staff on the doors. The marks can be seen. The doors were then opened formally and the Chairman of Governors, Headmaster, Headmistress of the LGJS and representatives of the both Junior and Senior Schools asked him to dedicate the hall / Chapel. His procession moved into the hall / Chapel where the whole of the Senior school and Year 6 from the Junior school together with Governors and Patrons were assembled. During the service that followed, he dedicated the Chapel.

Since then the school meets for worship in assembly there. Various voluntary services take place in addition to the established pattern of full school services. Holy Communion is celebrated every week, a prayer and worship service will be taking place every other week and services of Evening Prayer are held after school on Saints' Days.

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Margaret Float Travel Bursary - Australia

ANNIE-LOUISE ALLUM

Since completing my A levels at LGS back in July, and leaving behind the good old Peacock Lane buildings and memories of the past 9 years, I have begun my gap year in Australia. I ventured Down Under with the hockey and netball teams for our three week sports tour, visiting Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney, where I really enjoyed every playing and sightseeing second – a trip of a lifetime!

That was four months ago and I'm now working at a prestigious girls' boarding school in Perth, Western Australia, but a couple of weeks ago, during the term break, I undertook my first major adventure in Australia. I flew to Melbourne some 3,400 km away, and then began a 5,000 km tour first to Adelaide and then on to Alice Springs, meeting lots of people along the way from all over the world. I began my 10 day bus tour driving along the Great Ocean Road, a brilliant experience which included a once in a life time opportunity of taking a trip in a helicopter over the Twelve Apostles, hiking up a mountain in the Grampian National Park and travelling over a state border. After a day's stop in Adelaide, my journey continued up to Alice Springs, a six day trip. This trip included more hiking, seeing lots of genuine Aboriginal artwork and learning a lot about their stories and beliefs, which are quite remarkable. Highlights of this second leg of my trip were sleeping underground in the famous opal mining town of Coober Pedy, where 80% of its population live underground to escape the heat; eating kangaroo, emu and camel in a "traditional" Aussie BBQ; riding a camel; experiencing sunset at Uluru (Ayers Rock), and being lucky enough to walk around the base at sunrise, and finally, sleeping under the stars in a swag in the Outback – real Australia. But not the bit where dingoes were wandering around our camp at night-time, and I was fast asleep – not funny!

The trip truly enlightened me to the



culture of the country, particularly the Indigenous culture, which has already helped me when working with some of the Indigenous girls who have been given the opportunity to come to school at the Presbyterian Ladies College on full scholarships, as I feel I understand just a little bit more. I also experienced how vast the size of the country is and how people, even today, have to deal with that – no communication, no transport. The people who I met on my trip were also fantastic – all of this makes me believe that my gap year is becoming more and more worthwhile and truly giving me amazing life experiences.

My next trip is to the north island of New Zealand in December and then on to Sydney for New Year... exciting times ahead!

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