

Spring Term First Half 2012 www.leicesterhigh.co.uk



In the Daily Telegraph's Independent School GCSE league tables published this month, Leicester High was in the top 25 schools in the UK, and the top performing school in Leicestershire. There are so many different types of league tables, and we are not top of all of them, but it was good to see us there as testament to the girls' hard work! However, I am not a great believer in league tables, as in this tough world, girls need more than a string of A*s. Universities and employers are looking for confident communicators with ideas and opinions: team workers, problem solvers and risk takers. These skills are more likely to be learnt through all the activities the girls join in with at school. With the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics this year, we

have even more opportunities and events planned. Also, on the back of e-news you will see we have a new production to look forward to, "Alice in Wonderland", a LOROS concert and, of course, the Spring Ball. All these provide the complete education at LHS which we know gives our girls the edge. JB

Wonderful Ski Trip

The ski trip was a great success for 40 girls from Years 7-13. During the day, everyone had tremendous fun even though it reached -14C! At first, most girls struggled to get to grips with the different ski lifts, as 30 were complete beginners. There were numerous wipeouts, the funniest when people lost their balance and skied into someone else, which led to two people zooming down the slopes completely out of control. However, everyone finished the



successful week in high spirits, and all had made good progress. The evening activities were enjoyed by all. These included a lively disco, a karaoke with tuneful singing from everybody, and a quiz night, which consisted of general knowledge questions about Italy and winter sports, and a crazy race where five girls put on full ski outfits over their evening wear. Ice skating was an optional activity which many attended. It was great fun,

as most girls attempted pirouettes and jumps...which never ended successfully! On the final night, Awards were given and everyone received a certificate, badge or medal. Every group also presented their instructor with a gift to say thank you for helping them to have an amazing week.



Get Set for London 2012

LH S Junior Department is very proud to have received an official London 2012 plaque and certificate which confirms that they are Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values. This is as a result of an application made before Christmas by Mrs Fowler, Head of the Junior Department, setting out what the Juniors are doing to emphasise the importance of Respect, Excellence and Friendship. This means they are officially eligible to use the London 2012 logo on newsletters and other means of communication!



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More stories on the website

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Junior



Parents Welcome!

Parents have been invited into the Junior Department over the last twelve months to enjoy sharing their daughter's learning journey. "I want parents to experience the range of skills and knowledge that one topic of learning covers," says Mrs Fowler, Head of the Junior Department. "Having parents in school to see how learning happens will hopefully equip them with ideas and strategies to develop their daughters' learning whilst at home, and timing the class assemblies for 8:30am on a Friday hopefully makes it easier for parents to attend." The Junior Department is always keen to develop links with parents. This term Year 1 have been visited by a practising optician. Mrs Nehra, mother to Simone in Year 4 and Safiya



"A lovely opportunity to watch my daughter and her friends flourish with confidence"
Miss Booth

in Year 1, introduced the girls to how eyes work and how we can keep them healthy. Later this term Foundation Unit parents will be sharing a favourite story book from home with their daughter's class.

Myth Reading to the Juniors

Year 8 spent some of their RE lessons reading myths to the pupils in Year 2 and the Reception class. The Senior girls have been studying the creation stories found in the Christian and Hindu faiths and trying to decide if they were based on fact or myth. Their discussions led to the girls, working in small groups, writing their own myths. These stories were diverse, varying from explaining how zebras got their stripes to how the colours of the world were created. They all contained a moral message. Year 8 performed their stories with enthusiasm, props and lots of pictures to Year 2, who listened intently.



Chinese New Year

The Foundation Unit has celebrated Chinese New Year, The Year of the Dragon, with numerous activities: from making an extraordinarily long, sinuous dragon



to money envelopes, tangram animals, Chinese writing, and colourful lanterns. The highlight of the day was when everyone shared delicious traditional Chinese dumplings and sweets provided by Jialu Li. Mr James, the school chef, further contributed to the experience by serving a Chinese lunch, together with Fortune Cookies which the girls ate with enthusiasm!

Let's talk about Sport

Mrs Williams, Junior PE Subject Leader, believes that sport at LHS Junior Department should be about variety, inclusivity and competitiveness. "Since I joined three years ago, I have increased the amount of PE in the curriculum to three double lessons from Year 1 upwards. There is more variety and competition, and there are many more clubs." The extra time in the timetable allows most girls to learn swimming in school, as well as take part in a rota of activities including dance, gym, netball, hockey, rounders tennis and athletics. There are plenty of competitive opportunities, such as the Swimming Gala and swimming award scheme and the girls play matches in netball and rounders. They follow the BAGA award scheme in gym, and Year 5 netball play in the Leicestershire League. In addition, there are non-selective clubs in tennis, badminton, gym, netball, rounders, tennis and athletics. "There are many opportunities to achieve and compete," says Mrs Williams, "but giving the girls confidence and skills are the main things. Two Year 5s who were too frightened to attempt forward rolls have overcome their fears this week which is fantastic."



Congratulations

September 2011-February 2012

Girls entered into The Excellence Book:

Lalitha Pinnelli:
High standard of creative writing

2011/12 School Council:

Zaynah Ahmed, Nisha Mistry, Rachel Modha, Debadrita Dass, Niharika Paul, Sandali Aluthge

Children in Need Costume Winners:

Anna-Maria Rennie, Charlotte Smith, Raquel Berry, Nya Patel, Srishti Choudhary, Fleur Jeffrey, Paminder Nagra

Primary Maths Challenge:

Gold: Niharika Paul and Lalitha Pinnelli
Silver: Debadrita Dass
Bronze: Sandali Aluthge and Shirley Shah

The Year 3-5 Choir for winning at The Leicester Festival

Stars of The Term:

Jialu Lee
Amritha Mangat
Safiya Nehra
Nya Patel
Safa Salleh
Vaishnavi Sampath
Maryam Ahmed
Niharika Paul
Kareena Sobti

House and Games Captains:

Anika Bhalla
Charlotte Tebbutt
Aanika Bakshi
Sophia Sarna
Shirley Shah
Fleur Jeffrey
Rakhi Neyta
Oishee Ghosh
Lalitha Pinnelli
Sasha Law
Samreet Sanghera
Kulsoom Ali

Senior



Library facts

- Most borrowed book: "Private Peaceful", Michael Morpurgo
- Most books borrowed last term by an individual: 26
- Most popular book in Year 11: "Pros and Cons, The Debaters Handbook"

Libraries in the 21st Century

For some, libraries do not have great appeal, and just conjure up images of dusty and forgotten books. Nothing could be further from the truth at Leicester High, where Ms Adams, in her fourth year at the School, has embraced new technology and is encouraging and cajoling the girls into using the library in different ways. "With the School VLE (virtual learning environment) it is possible to access the library from home," says Ms Adams. "Girls can search for and reserve books in the school library, check reading lists for all of their subjects, access audio and eBooks, review revision skills sessions, and watch videos of authors who have visited the School." The new Kindle is proving popular in school, and there are now over 200 eBooks in the library. About 400 new books are bought a year, often as a result of recommenda-

tions or requests from the girls. The latest book by Victoria Hislop, "The Thread", is an example of this. There are also over 20 magazines on subscription, including one relating to every A level subject. "Having the library on the VLE makes a seamless connection between the library at school and at home, and means that we can support the girls' learning beyond the school day," says Ms Adams.

Year 6 geographers study Oadby

On a bright and clear January morning, Year 6 set off for the shops in Oadby. The objective was not to spend their pocket money, but to collect data on the type of shop found, to conduct a questionnaire and to carry out a pedestrian and traffic count. The girls have been working on a unit about settlement in their geography lessons this term, and proved conscientious in their attitude and extremely polite when interviewing the shoppers. The data collected will certainly help to put their theoretical geographical knowledge in context.



Runners-up in Olympic Song Competition!



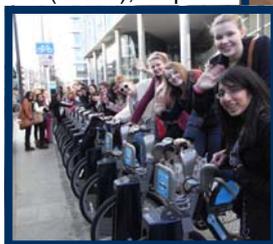
Just prior to the Christmas holidays the Year 12 Spanish group, together with some Year 9 and Year 11 girls, enjoyed participating in Arsenal Football Double Club's Olympic Song Competition. All schools were invited to write the lyrics for two verses in their chosen foreign language, as well as the chorus in English. Year 12s did the composing, whilst some talented Year 9 and 11 girls performed the video entry. We are delighted to discover that, from hundreds of entries across the country, our girls were selected as runners-up in the Spanish language entry. The girls have also been invited to participate in a special recording of the Olympic song at the Emirates Stadium in July, which will then be distributed

to all schools in the UK to celebrate the next European Day of Languages! Congratulations girls! To view the video, see the Home page of the website or copy and paste this link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm-TSdB1c44&feature=player_profilepage

New London Expressive Arts Trip

Forty five girls from Years 11 and 12 enjoyed a residential trip to London in early February. They visited Covent Garden, The Royal Albert Hall, The V&A, Tate Modern, and saw "Wicked" in a tightly planned programme. "The girls didn't let us down once," said Mrs Rose, subject leader of drama. She, along with the new Expressive Arts team of Mrs Bott (art), Mrs Gasgoine (dance), and Miss Stell (music), hope to make this a yearly event, as it works well as a research trip for the girls who had their GCSE briefs the week before. "We are looking forward to creating an even more successful and exciting faculty. This trip, soon to be followed by the "Alice in Wonderland" production in March, helps to raise the profile of Expressive Arts in School," said Mrs Bott. Judging by the excited voices coming from the drama studio and the wonderful art on the LHS Art Blog, it is onwards and upwards in Expressive Arts.



Congratulations

September 2011-February 2012

Girls entered into The Excellence Book:

Urvi Sedani (2): Declaration of Rights project and a superb booklet about cholesterol in the diet

Phoebe Law (2): Declaration of Rights project and a fantastic essay on arguments for and against the existence of God

Sarika Patel (2): An excellent poster and presentation about an endangered animal and outstanding work for her independent article on breakfast

Katherine Bretherton (2): A poster on Sickle Cell disease and a 99% maths test result

Elizabeth Doohar: Taking the initiative to travel to Germany alone to visit her penfriend and improve her German

Isabella Young: Accompanying all the choirs at The Awards Ceremony

Sabika Ahmed & Ameera Aziz: Fantastic effort on Archimedes homework

Susannah Wang: Outstanding essay on "Much Ado About Nothing"

Hannah Erlebach: A vivid and imaginative ghost story

Freya Lightfoot: An excellent essay about Henry VIII

Riya Ghosh: An excellent hand embellished MORSBAG

Ayesha Bhatti, Priya Patel & Ammaarah Omar: Producing a superb booklet about cholesterol in the diet

Zara Bukhari, Vanisha Mehta & Miriam Woods: Excellent performance and teamwork in Youth Speaks 2012

Olivia Scuplak: A brilliant philosophical response to an essay question: "If God existed we would know it"

Sophie Jefford: Second place in the Hope against Cancer poetry competition

Zarah Kassam: Excellent results in a maths test

Imogen Upcraft: An excellent piece of independent work

Sixth

In the spotlight Debating Prefect Rebecca Millar



Tell us about your job...

A large element is organising: committee meetings, timetables, and ideas for motions.

Are you proud of anything in particular...?

I am pleased to have introduced a new inter-House competition, as this opens up debating to more people and makes it competitive.

Why do you like debating?

It's fast-paced but at the same time makes you sit back and think about your opinion. It's just glorified arguing really!

Give 3 reasons why you should try debating...

It's fun, it boosts confidence and you learn so much.

How would you encourage the unconfident to try...?

Everyone gets nervous and you only get the fluency of a preacher through years of practice. It's best to keep it slow, not panic, and accept that we all make mistakes and it is not the end of the world if you mess up.

Any embarrassing stories...?

I'm "fortunate" enough to be partnered with my sister as a team, and we often have mini arguments between each other when it should be with the opposing team!

Which debates stand out...?

The Great Shakespeare Debate last year when we reached the final; literature and debating: brilliant! Also the Christmas balloon debates were a barrel of laughs because it's a silly subject but you debate it seriously. I was dressed as a turkey and argued its role in the success of Christmas day!



Visit to Waitrose

Two girls studying Home Economics at AS level visited Waitrose this half term to learn about the marketing and technological advances in the retailing of food. Manisha Tailor at Waitrose was very informative about the new store in Oadby, and set the girls off shopping using the new technologies of self-scanning and self-weighing. The girls also learnt about the marketing, price, and customer service strategies of the store and their commitment to local charities and produce. The girls were very impressed and felt they learnt a lot from the trip: **"A visit to a real employer like this really helps to bring the theory to life, and the real examples I have will be of use in the examination."**

Sixth Former invited to Civic Dinner

A girl in Year 13 was invited to attend a Civic Dinner at Devonshire Place with the Lord Mayor and other Senior Councillors as a reward for her work with the Council as a Young Advisor with the Council Youth Group. Only 15 Young Advisors were invited to attend this prestigious event. The LHS pupil has been volunteering for the council for over two years, in a variety of roles. Recently during political marches in Leicester in early February, the Young Advisors had a key role, offering advice, support and information to vulnerable young people using social media. "We have our own office just a few doors down from the Assistant Mayor, and we are taken very seriously by the Councillors who treat us like adults and listen to our views," she said. "This experience has opened my eyes to the work that The Council does, and I have enjoyed experiencing the diversity of ideas you hear from a broad range of people."



Congratulations

September 2011-February 2012

Girls entered into The Excellence Book:

Rebecca Millar: For her support and assistance coaching teams, acting as timer and helping to host the 2011 Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

Naailah Omar: Excellent role as Charity Prefect along with an innovative approach to fundraising ideas

Eleanor Hall: Excellent presentation on family history for The History Society

Rotary Young Photographer Competition:

Philippa Culverwell: Intermediate, 1st prize

Rebecca Millar: Senior, 1st prize

Amelia Eatough: Senior, 2nd prize

Rotary Young Writers:

Nikita Minhas: Senior Prose, 1st prize

Vandita Seghal: Junior Poetry, 1st prize

Shivani Sood: Junior Prose, 1st prize

Hannah Erlebach: Intermediate Poetry, 1st prize

Emer Keegan: Intermediate Prose, 1st prize

What's On? What's On? What's On? What's On? What's On?

Leicester High School for Girls
Presents

Alice in Wonderland

Entertain & engage it's what we shall do!!
With tea & cakes we welcome you.
So mark your calendar, save the date,
it's time to help us communicate!
March is the month, the
27th, 28th and 29th are the days
At 7 o'clock we will start our plays!

Tickets available now!
Adults £7
Child £5
Concession £5
Contact Aime Morris on 0116 2796014
Or e-mail AM@leicesterhigh.co.uk

Join the tea party from half past 6. You can refill your cups and plates during the interval!

The Prince Street Players Est. production of
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Adapted from the book by Lewis Carroll. Adaptation, book, and lyrics by Jui Eiler
Music by Jui Eiler and Jeanne Parry

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK.

Leicester High School for Girls
Spring Ball

31st March 2011
Symphony Rooms
121 Bonnamoor Street,
Leicester,
LE2 7JL
Car parking available at rear of venue

Tickets - £29
Only £26 for guests
See Senior Prefect Team for details
Champagne Reception at 7:00pm
Cakes
Two course meal
Live Music
Photographer

CHARITY CONCERT IN AID OF LOROS

An evening of dance, music, drama, and the spoken word
When: Thursday 1 March Where: School Gym
Tickets: Adults (£5), Concessions (£3)