

Spring Term 2014 1st Half [www.leicesterhigh.co.uk](http://www.leicesterhigh.co.uk) [twitter@LeicesterHigh](https://twitter.com/LeicesterHigh)

This half term began quietly with Year 11 mock exam. I was very impressed by their efforts and results, and I eagerly await a further improved performance in their GCSEs. The rest of this half term has been far from quiet however! In my campaign to raise aspirations, I was delighted to see so many parents and girls at the Oxbridge Evening (see below). I was also particularly impressed with our five Year 12 girls who beat Repton and Oakham Schools at a Languages Conference. The Languages Department here is very strong, and I think this victory is testament to the quality of their teaching. **AW, Headmaster**



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## Oxbridge Offers and Expertise in School



Alice and Emily, who have received offers from Cambridge University this year.

On 28 January, the School held an *Applying to Oxbridge Evening* for parents and girls, potential Ogden Scholars for 2014, and local 11-16 schools. The Headmaster, Mr Alan Whelpdale, welcomed his ex-pupil, Dr Curran, from Oxford, and Dr Woodman, from Cambridge, to speak about what they look for in candidates. The event, which was attended by over 100 people, is new, and was initiated by the Headmaster, who said: 'I want to demystify myths about applying to Oxbridge, and show it as a realistic choice for aspirational girls. I was also delighted that Dr Curran spent time



Dr Curran, from Oxford University, teaching Years 12 & 13 English A level classes during her visit to school.

teaching our A level English girls. They said that the level of detail in her analysis of language was awe-inspiring.' Drs Curran and Woodman are Admissions Tutors, so they gave a valuable insight into the interview process, life at Oxbridge and the personal statement. Mrs Lancini, Head of Sixth Form, spoke about the special programme the School offers for Oxbridge candidates, and Emily Hopgood, who has been offered a place to study Veterinary Medicine at Emmanuel College in Cambridge in 2014, also spoke about her experience. Emily, and Alice Boyd, (see left), have both been offered places at Cambridge this year, and are to be congratulated on their achievement. Emily said, 'When I opened the offer letter, which was worryingly small, I cried. Then my mum joined in!' She had a great interview experience with 12 other vets, and she knows that 4 have gained offers. 'I chatted about what I feed my pets during the interview,' she said. 'Loving your subject is the most im-

portant thing. I think that having passion about what you want to do is what they are looking for.' Alice was very proud to be offered a place at Magdalene College to study Natural Sciences. 'The questions during the interview were the most challenging I have ever been asked. I didn't know all the answers, but it is important to be yourself and be honest,' she said.

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## New Scholarship Opportunity

This year only the School is offering a new Scholarship, sponsored by The Maud Elkington Charitable Trust. The scholarship is 100% funded from Years 7-11 from September 2014-9, and is for an academic girl. Mr Whelpdale, the Headmaster, wrote to the Trust and secured funds so that the School is able to open its doors to able girls whose parents have limited income and who would not normally have the chance to attend a school like Leicester High. To ensure that the selection process is fair, all those interested will sit examinations in Maths and English on **Tuesday 25 February**. Those shortlisted will also be interviewed, and parents will be required to show proof of household income. Many interested girls attended an Open Morning on February 11. For more information, see the website [www.leicesterhigh.co.uk](http://www.leicesterhigh.co.uk)



Mr Whelpdale with some of Year 7.



## 6 new girls start in Foundation Unit

A warm welcome to Zahra, Lucy, Nafisa and Gabriela in Year F and Aisha and Nehaveena in Year R. They have settled in very quickly and are enjoying the outdoor play in the Spinney, and the trips and visits this half term. The Foundation Unit is now nearly full for this year. To register for places in September 2014, please call Mrs Harbage on 0116 270 5338

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# Junior

## GIRLS SING & DANCE WITH THE RAF BAND

Selected Year groups in the Junior and Senior School had the privilege of listening to the Band of The Royal Air Force College. 30 musicians, all with Grade 8 and above, played a variety of tunes to an enthralled and, at times, dancing audience! The tunes varied from *Harry Potter* to *The Incredibles* and included songs by Katy Perry and Lilly Allen. The Band, which tours all over the world, have girls in every section. 5 LHS girls enjoyed playing their instruments with the Band. Becky Jeyes, who plays the flute, said: 'This experience will be one I will never forget and it has really inspired me to continue with my music after I leave school. Hopefully one day I'll be part of a band of that standard, so that I can make someone else smile too.'



## Charnwood Museum Trip

On Tuesday 28 January the Foundation Unit visited Charnwood Museum. The girls were very excited about the trip and the rainy weather failed to dampen their enthusiasm. As well as looking around the museum, the girls had the opportunity to learn about, and play with, a large selection of old fashioned toys.



## African Drumming Fun

The girls from Reception to Year 2 had a very enjoyable, noisy and rhythmical Friday morning, learning how to play African drums with their special visitor, Chris. Following some warm-up games to get their ears and eyes tuned in, they moved on to some basic drumming techniques. This then led to a range of activities including: drumming using different dynamics, drumming with animal impressions, and rhythm improvisation. The morning culminated in a performance to the rest of the Junior girls. There were a few sore hands by the end, but lots of smiles too!



## Record Breaking Donation for NSPCC

The Junior girls, collaboratively, have raised £2954 for the NSPCC through a sponsored spellathon and shape activity. 'This is the most raised by a school of our size through the sponsorship scheme, and I am delighted with the girls' hard work and efforts,' reported Mrs Fowler, Head of Juniors. The girls are proud of their achievement, as seen by them sporting their NSPCC badges on their uniforms.



## Girls Enjoy Expressive Arts Evening in Senior School

A group of girls from Years 4 and 5 performed a piece of musical theatre at The Expressive Arts Charity Evening on Thursday 6 February. The girls dressed in their school summer dresses and knee-length socks to sing the song 'Naughty'. Sorcha Whyte, the Expressive Arts Prefect, has enjoyed working with this group of Junior girls every Thursday after school and said that their enthusiasm to sing and perform was fantastic.



# Senior

## Girls Learn about Crime and Prison through Interactive Workshops

**P**rison Officer and dog handler Paul McGovern, MBE, from HMP Manchester, and PS Darren Little, together with other members of the local Police Force, delivered a series of sessions about young people and crime. The girls, from Years 3-13, learnt that it can take only 20 seconds to make a decision that could have serious consequences. There was lots of noise and excitement, including fun games for the younger years, such as 'mistakes and ladders', but also serious and true stories during which the room became absolutely silent. The girls learnt about making 999 calls for the 5 emergency services, about bullying, including cyberbullying and Facebook, and how to contact Childline. Stop and search was demonstrated with the protagonist carrying a 'dangerous' spoon! Charlie, a sniffer spaniel, and Gee, a German Shepherd, were a big hit. The reality of two people sharing a prison cell was brought to life with the Headmaster sharing a 'cell' with chemistry teacher, Mr Hoyle, which was received with much hilarity. Indeed, throughout the sessions the girls loved their teachers being put on the spot. The team awarded the school a community plaque in recognition of the pupils taking on board what they had been told, which this will be presented annually to a girl at LHS who has done something worthwhile in the community. The girls have been absolutely "buzzing" about the workshops with many stating that it was the best session ever!



## GALLERY

Y11 Art

Y9 Heart Dissection

Y6 Dance

Y7 at Pizza Party



## Center Parcs School Games Badminton County Tournament

**T**he U14 and U16 badminton squads recently won the local rounds of this national competition to play in the County rounds, which were held during the week commencing Monday 3 February. In the U14s competition, they played and beat Newbridge 3-2 and Market Bosworth 3-2, before coming up against Belvoir High. Sadly, Shivani was injured during her match, but the other 3 girls rallied to the task, and although they had to concede some matches, they beat Belvoir 3-2 and made it through to the play-offs. Leicester High played Bushloe, who had also won their stage. The reduced team of 3 girls did their best but lost 0-5. Bushloe were worthy winners, having an England player on their team! In addition to coming second, the team were also awarded the Spirit of the Game trophy for their team work, determination and kindness to Shivani. Congratulations to Zoe Callow (Captain), Riya Ghosh, Hannah Erlebach and Shivani Kumar. In the U16s competition, they beat Sir Jonathon North 5-0, Martin High 5-0, Belvoir 5-0 and John Cleveland College 5-0 to make it through to the finals. They then faced Beauchamp College, but unfortunately this year they were too strong for LHS, and despite some amazing rallies and closely fought games, they lost 0-5. The girls received Silver medals and certificates. Congratulation to Susannah Wang, Morgan Williams, Ayesha Bhatti, Nina Patel and Aditi Pandey. On a final note, the U18, U16 and U14 squads are to be congratulated for wins, all 8-0, against Leicester Grammar this half term!



## LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD

**W**hen do you get 2.5 hours to really think? This is what girls in Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 did in February when they sat the papers of the UK Linguistics Olympiad. They were tested on recognising patterns, systems, sequences and symbols in order to fathom rules and messages in real and made-up languages and graphics. The results are published at the end of February. At the very least we will have a measure of our thinking skills, but hopefully we will have a flurry of certificates. Fingers crossed!



## Peer Mentors trained and ready to help!

**J**ust before Christmas, Mrs Morgan and Nurse Abby started to train 15 girls to become Peer Mentors. This is a new role in School, and is specifically targeted towards helping new girls settle in quickly and happily. The training involved four sessions, and the mentors have been given certificates and badges in assembly. Thank you and congratulations to the girls who are: Esha and Salma in Y6, Zaynah and Lily Y7, Safia and Jasmine in Y8, Alisha, Zoe and Ruhi Y9, Anisha, Aminah, Freya and Nayonica Y10, and Alex and Emily in Y11.



# Sixth

## Winners at The Biology Olympiad Competition



**E**ight Year 13 girls entered the Biology Olympiad on January 20, when they completed a two hour paper of 90 multiple choice questions. The girls are not taught specifically for the exam, but are encouraged to work beforehand on their own, using past papers. 6 of the girls achieved a recognised level. Congratulations to: Sarah Jenkins, who won a Gold Medal, Emily Hopgood, who won Silver, Neha Kallam, who won a Bronze, Rachel Bretherton and Ayesha Girach, who were Highly Commended, and Nicole Chahal who was Commended. Over 5000 students enter nationally, and only 66% gain any level of achievement.



## PREFECTS' PERFECT PIZZAS RAISE £350

**T**he prefects' quest to raise money for their chosen charity 'beat' continued this half term with a successful fundraiser event for Years 6 & 7. The prefects organised a 'make your own pizza' and film night in school. Everyone enjoyed making the pizzas with a variety of delicious toppings, and then the girls disappeared up to Room 25 to watch 'Hairspray' as the prefects kept a watchful eye on the pizzas in the ovens in the Food room. The sixth formers then served the girls who appreciated being waited on!



The AS Drama & Theatre Studies Performance Workshop, which is coursework and worth 20% of the course marks, was 'stunning' said Mrs Rose. 7 girls, in 2 groups, performed in a set text, and a piece they had devised themselves.

## OOH LA LA! LHS WIN BUSINESS LANGUAGE CHAMPIONS COMPETITION.

**O**n February 6, five Year 12 linguists took part in 'SCOOP', an exciting journalistic competition run by Business Language Champions, hosted at Beauchamp School. Schools from around the East Midlands were participating, including Repton, Oakham and the Nottingham High Schools. Simon Hart, sports columnist for the Independent, gave a keynote speech in which he highlighted



how his languages have helped him to get ahead in his career. The aim for each team was to produce the front cover of a foreign language newspaper. Throughout the morning, press conferences took place announcing breaking news stories in various languages. Each team then had to give a four minute presentation in their chosen language, justifying their choice of news stories and the image they had adopted for their paper. The girls worked magnificently; they were under pressure and time constraints, but organised themselves superbly from the start. This was recognised by the judges who awarded them first place, and, as a prize, a trip to the BBC studios in June.

## Expressive Arts Evening showcases talent in school and raises £750 for Leicester Childrens Hospital.



**INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR SCHOOL?**  
**Next Open Morning: Wednesday 30 April, 9-11am**

No need to book, simply walk in!

Please call Mrs Harbage on 0116 270 5338 for more information