



Autumn Term 2015 2nd Half [www.leicesterhigh.co.uk](http://www.leicesterhigh.co.uk) [twitter@LeicesterHigh](https://twitter.com/LeicesterHigh)



**C**hristmas is upon us, so first of all may I wish you a wonderful break with your families, and I hope you have a happy and peaceful time together. May I also thank all the parents and girls who responded to the many questions the Inspectors (ISI) asked us during our recent Inspection. I am extremely pleased with the findings of the Inspectorate, and will share the results with you before the end of term. There have been some tremendous achievements in recent weeks. I am so impressed with the girls, see below, who won the French debating team competition, beating last year's winners, Stamford School. Also, for the first time we have two netball teams in the County Play-Offs, and I congratulate the coaches and the Y7 and Y8 girls for all their hard work during the term and at the training camps in the holidays. ARW

## GIRLS WIN DEBATING IN FRENCH COMPETITION!



**O**n Friday 20 November 2015, Krista Landers (Y13), Ayesha Bhatti (Y13), Zoha Akram (Y12) and Hannah Erlebach (Y11) took part in 'The War of the Words' regional French debating challenge at St. George's Academy in Sleaford. The girls listened to a talk by Emma McClarkin MEP, regarding the importance of international communication and were given advice throughout the day to improve their public speaking skills. The girls competed in three debates, two of which were improvised, discussing matters such as vegetarianism, legalisation of cannabis and whether teachers should wear uniform. The standard was extremely high. In the finals, the girls competed

against the winners from last year, Stamford School. After an intense battle, the girls were crowned the winners of 2015 by the event organiser, the BLC, (Business Language Champions). A special thank you to Hannah in Y11, who stepped in at the last minute.

## Y7 and 8 Netball through to County Play-Offs



**Y**7 and 8 netball teams have had an excellent season and both qualified, for the first time, for the Team Leicestershire County Play-Offs to be held at Loughborough University in January 2016. Y7, captained by Anika Agnihotri, played four games and won four games, scored 33 goals and conceded only one goal. Mrs Davidson, who is their coach, said, 'They have had an outstanding start to the year, and remain undefeated.' Y8, captained by Esha Vishram and coached by Mrs Brittain, played five games and won five games, scored 50 goals and only conceded 11. Mrs Brittain said, 'This is a fantastic effort. The hard work and dedication put in by the squad during training has brought us to the play offs - let's see how far we can go!'

## Nativity Play YF-2

**I**f you were not too sure about what exactly was going on behind the stable door, you will have been after watching this year's nativity. The Foundation Unit and Key Stage 1 girls put on a memorable performance of *Behind the Stable Door*. The singing, dancing and acting were wonderful and there certainly are some stars in the making. Well done to everyone involved for a super team effort and for getting the Christmas celebrations off to a great start.



Photo gallery on website

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# Junior

## Pre-Christmas Extravaganza Fundraiser

**F**riends of LHS organised a fantastic whole School event on 29 November and raised over £1000! With help from staff, girls and the Sixth Form, a group of extremely helpful and organised parents, ably led by Mrs Antonella Berry-Brincat, put together an event containing lots of Christmas-themed stalls, which was great fun and a huge success. The money raised will go to Mr Tang's Music Department and also will enable the Early Years Unit to buy fleeces. LHS Friends is now a well-established group who usually meet at the parents' social, Coffee Corner, on Tuesday mornings in the library. Not losing their momentum, they have pencilled in two more events for next year; a 'Checkmates' wear checks day on Friday 12 February 2016, and a Fashion Show, working with our fashion students, on Sunday 13 March 2016. Funds from these events will go towards sports equipment.



## AMAZING ART & DESIGN



Y1

## Year 1 Autumn Adventurers

On a gusty morning, Year 1 walked to Leicester University's Botanical Gardens to undertake some serious exploring. Using photographs of human and physical phenomena, the girls were able to work together to locate where the photographs were taken and even where the photographer must have stood to take the photograph. The girls' careful eye for detail was developed before a group game of 'Hide and Seek' was enjoyed in the beautiful grounds.



Photo gallery on website



Y2

## Science Curriculum Evening for Parents

**T**his term has seen the hosting of another successful Curriculum Evening in the Junior Department. Parents of Year 1-Year 5 pupils were invited to find out more about how 'excellent scientists' can be developed, both in school and at home. Parents found out what is needed to be an 'excellent scientist' and were given a hands-on opportunity to try out some of the class-based activities which are used to develop their daughter's science skills across the different year groups. The evening was interspersed with some awe-inspiring examples of science in the natural world, and was rounded off with some ideas of how parents could further enhance science learning at home.

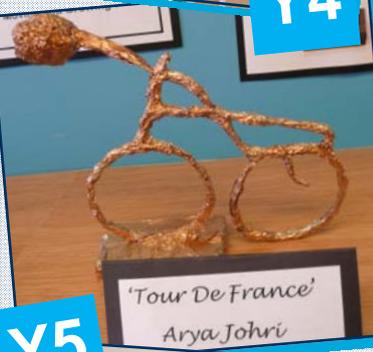


Y3

Photo gallery on website

## Y3-5 Cross Country

**E**leven girls competed at Knighton Park in the Inter-Schools' Cross Country Event. In Y3, the only runner from LHS, Shivani Sarna, came in 4th place. A great result for her first cross country competition. In Y4, Lola Kermode came 8th, Alfreda Barroso-Taylor came in 10th, Sophie Henson came in 13th and Arya Johri came in 30th. On the longer course, Y5 girls battled against a large number of competitors with the following results: Frantasia Mbewe 17th, Lauren Fowler 22nd, Raquel Berry 23rd, Mylan Basra 26th, Lytheah Heskey-Morrison 34th and Beatrice Davies 38th. Huge congratulations to all the girls who competed.



Y4

## Ingenious Inventors in Y2

**G**irls in Y2 have been working hard this term, inventing, designing and making a model of their vehicle. They have been applying their expanding science knowledge by considering which materials would be best for their designs, based on the required properties of each component. Great work girls!



Y5

# Senior

## Debating Club Success

This year has seen the revival of Debating Club with Mrs Brookes and the Debating Prefect, Ayesha Bhatti, working closely together to provide good quality, entertaining, and stimulating debates. Mrs Brookes says, 'It has been an absolute pleasure to see the girls excelling in debating this year. Their ability to construct convincing arguments and think critically has been of an incredibly high standard and I'm looking forward to taking them to a competition in Nottingham in February.' Senior debating is currently underway, with motions such as 'This House Believes aliens exist' and 'This House Believes euthanasia should be legalised' being put forward by the girls themselves, as well as being debated by a variety of girls from Y10 to Y13. These normally take place during the second half of Tuesday lunchtimes and can get quite heated, depending on how controversial the debate (or audience) is. We have previously had the Head Girl Krista and Deputy Head Girl Susannah both participate in their own debates, arguing motions relevant to what is going on in the news, and we will also be having a House debating competition. Intermediate debating, involving the younger girls from Y6-Y9 will commence at the beginning of February once Senior Debating Club has finished. It is hoped that this will influence the younger girls to continue debating throughout the years and maintain Debating Club as a popular, exciting extracurricular activity. **Words by Ayesha Bhatti**



## MEET THE STAFF

**Mrs Nicola O'Brien**  
Assistant Head  
Teaching and Learning  
Why do you teach?

I teach because I was inspired by my primary school teachers who made learning fun.

### What's your remit at LHS?

My job at LHS is to support the teachers in being the best they can be to enable the girls to have a positive learning experience.



## Music Out & About



## Girls Perform 'Macbeth' at Curve

Thirty girls from Y6-Y12 entered the Schools' Shakespeare Festival (SSF) at Curve, for the third time, this year. Performing scenes from 'Macbeth' to a sold out theatre, they impressed all with their dramatic and faultless performance. Mrs Rose, Head of Drama, said, 'We were extremely lucky to have the opportunity to perform in the SSF, which is the largest youth drama festival in the world. The girls were exemplary and a credit to the School and their parents, whom I would like to thank for their continued support.' Many congratulations to all those who took part, and special thanks to Mrs Rose, who initiated the School's involvement with the festival and who continues to source exciting opportunities to stretch the girls' skills and learning.



## Champion Speakers



On Wednesday 2 December, three enthusiastic teams of Y11 girls took part in the hugely enjoyable first round of this year's Rotary Youth Speaks competition. The girls spoke in teams of three on a wide range of

subjects, from 'Capital Punishment' to 'How Social Media Affects Those in Adolescence'. Congratulations go to the winning team of Chairman Zoe Callow, Speaker Ruhi Vaitha, who talked both entertainingly and most convincingly on "The Importance of Doing Nothing", and Vote of Thanks Alisha Gadhia. These girls now go forward to the District Semi-Final round of the competition which will be held early in February 2016.

### Initial thoughts about the School?

It's a close knit community with a 'can do' attitude and the ambition to do the best for the girls, both academically and pastorally. I love it!

### Career high points so far in your life?

Becoming a Nationally recognised Specialist Leader of Education with the NCTI (National College for Teaching and Leadership) and becoming the Assistant Head at LHS.

### Plans for LHS?

To build on all the good practice I see in the classrooms and enable staff to become reflective and well-informed teachers who are not afraid to take risks and stretch and challenge each other and the girls, thus ensuring all pupils reach, or exceed, their potential.

### Herbal tea/strong coffee?

Herbal Tea

### Action movie/romantic drama?

Action movie

### Theatre/cinema?

Theatre

### Lying on a beach/climbing a mountain?

Mountain, then beach!

### Fact/Fiction books?

Fiction

# Sixth

## ART WORKSHOPS INSPIRE GIRLS

**A**rt students have been benefiting from professionals this term. In November, photographers in Y12 and Y13, and a couple of Y11s who may study photography next year, enjoyed planning and shooting a fashion story based on a theme chosen by the girls: 'Stripe, Autumn, Denim, Black'.



Helping during the whole day workshop was Sarah Brittain-Edwards, who is a freelance photographer and Art Director. Sarah's creative flair has seen her through a degree in Fine Art and a First Class Honours Degree in Fashion Photography at the London College of Fashion. The girls looked at Sarah's work and discussed fashion photography, hearing first-hand from a professional the tricks and tips involved. Then the girls organised their own shoots. The girls worked in pairs and took it in turns to be the model and the photographer. They explored composition and styling of the model and the use of natural and artificial light. Everyone had a fantastic day, and there was much learning and a lot of enjoyment too. Sarah was really inspirational and gave the girls a lot of ideas to use in the future. In December, Jane French visited School to run a portrait painting workshop. Her background is in graphic design and illustration, but, since 2009, she has worked as a professional artist focussing primarily on portraiture. She shared and demonstrated her skills in portrait painting and then the girls drew self-portraits throughout the day, some almost finishing their portraits, which were highly accomplished.



Photo galleries on website

## A Level Conferences

### 1. Economics

**O**n Monday 7 December the Sixth Form economics students from Y12 and Y13 travelled to central London to attend a Sixth Form economics conference. The girls heard a range of speakers, including Vicky Price, Larry Elliott of The Guardian and Hugh Pym from the BBC. The topics covered ranged from Health Economics to the role of The Treasury. The girls had an enlightening experience and learnt much from a whole range of speakers.



## Quilliam Talk on Extremism



On Friday 20 November all Sixth Form girls attended a talk on the dangers of extremism and radicalisation by Dr Osama Hasan and Nikita Malik, both senior researchers at the Quilliam Foundation in London, a think tank which stands for religious freedom, equality, human rights and democracy. An interesting insight was given by Ms Malik on the reasons why young British girls are enticed into giving up their comfortable lives and successful academic careers and fleeing to Syria to become Jihadi brides. She stressed the need for women to talk about their identity and for women themselves to raise the issues they face at national level. Dr Hasan highlighted how vulnerable young men facing social exclusion, discrimination and racism are attracted by fanatical ideology, at the same time stressing that their beliefs are the polar opposite of what Islam, like other religions, stands for: peace,

love and tolerance and that life is ultimately about hope and optimism.

### 2. Chemistry

On Tuesday 17 November, the A level chemists had the opportunity to attend a day of lectures at the University of Warwick. Throughout the day, the talks never failed to amaze us, as we were able to witness the cutting of ice with diamonds and even see the world of chemistry through 3D glasses! We were all fortunate enough to expand our knowledge of chemistry and were inspired to explore subject outside of the curriculum. We would all like to thank Dr Singleton and Mr Hoyle who made this trip possible and continue to encourage our interest in the subject.

Words by Ria Soni



## Future Events Diary.....

- **Little Learners Playgroup**  
Thurs, Term-time, 9-11am, Junior Hall. Open to all parents & community
- **Entrance Exam and Assessments Morning, 9am-12.30pm, Sat 16 Jan 2016**
- **Ask Nurse Abby 4 week programme of health talks, starting 3.30pm, Thurs 14 Jan 2016, Room 25. Open to all parents & the community**
- **Local Schools English Masterclass 10am-12pm Sat 30 Jan 2016**
- **Open Morning for prospective parents 9-11.30am Tues 10 Feb**
- **Friends of LHS Checkmates fundraising day Fri 12 Feb 2016**
- **Headmaster's Scholarship Exam 9-11.30am Tues 23 Feb 2016**
- **Bring your parents to Expressive Arts Evening Y4-Y7 6pm Fri 4 Mar 2016**
- **Local Schools Geography Masterclass 10am-12pm Sat 5 Mar 2016**
- **Friends of LHS Fashion Show 2.30-5pm Sun 13 Mar 2016**
- **Ogden Scholarship Exam 9-11am Tues 15 Mar 2016**
- **Jungle Book, 7pm Tues 22 and Wed 23 Mar 2016**