



Spring Term 2016 2nd Half [www.leicesterhigh.co.uk](http://www.leicesterhigh.co.uk) [twitter@LeicesterHigh](https://twitter.com/LeicesterHigh)

I am delighted that the U18 badminton squad are County Champions for the second year running. This is a great team effort, and we are very proud of them. As I write, parents will have learned of Mrs Fowler's appointment to Head of the Junior School at Nottingham Girls' High School. Whilst we all know Mrs Fowler is a talented teacher and leader who will go far, the Junior Department, like the victorious badminton squad, is also a team effort whose sum is greater than its parts. I think it is ideal to keep great staff for as long as you can and then embrace new ones with new ideas who will continue to improve the School. Talking of team efforts, the productions in both Juniors and Seniors were fantastic, and I congratulate every single person involved with them. Happy Easter, and enjoy some relaxing family time. **ARW.**



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## IT'S SHOWTIME!



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The half term has been punctuated by bursts of melodic singing from behind closed doors as the casts of both the Junior and Senior productions rehearsed after school and at lunchtimes. Staff in both the Junior Department and Senior School have been preoccupied with very specific prop-making challenges: Mrs Bott was seen walking around with vulture beaks and Mrs Cobley was constantly sewing beautiful flowing cloaks! The girls, however, are the ones who truly excelled themselves. The cast of *Jungle Book*, comprising 37 girls in Y6-11, sang and danced their way through a truly spectacular show. The confidence of Cecilia Young, in Y7, as Mowgli, shone through, and Sofia Bhatti, in Y11, as Shere Khan, was impressive and mesmerising. This role, her first major part in a show, is proof that you can try new things even when you have been at the School for a while! Everyone in the cast worked extremely hard and contributed to an excellent and most impressive production. *The Rainmaker*, in which over 50 girls from Y3-5 took part, was, as the Headmaster said, 'Brilliant'. In this mystical and magical production, with wonderful props and impressive face-painting and costumes, there were many stand-out performances. The crazy Samba dancing bear and the Jamaican parrot will be hard to forget, but the whole cast had an energy and commitment that carried the entire performance to a very high standard. There can be no doubt that the productions create a wonderful opportunity for the girls to work as a team, make new friends, learn new skills and gain confidence. We are grateful to all the staff, girls and parents who make these opportunities happen.

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# Junior

## DYNAMIC GYMNASTICS

**C**ongratulations to our two teams who competed at the inter-schools event at Moat School. The standard was very high and our girls demonstrated their expertise in body management (core strength and control) and vaulting and floor exercise (sequence of movements). Our Y3/4 team came 5th - see the names below -and for four girls it was their first

experience of the competition. Y3/4 team: Lola Kermode, Y4; Veera Vaitha, Y4; Sana Deshpande, Y4; Shivani Sarna, Y3, and Fatima Hajaj, Y4. Congratulations to the experienced Y5/6 team who came 2nd: Beatrice Davies, Y5; Frantasia Mbewe, Y5; Safiya Nehra, Y5; Lauren Fowler, Y5 and Isha Ghosh, Y6 (also awarded a silver medal for individual performance).



Photo gallery on website

## GALLERY

Gymnastics Competition



## Celebrating Reading

**A** Leap Year day heralded the start of an energetic and successful Book Week in the Juniors. The Monday Assembly began with a 'Family Fortunes' style tussle between two teams, the 'Grimms' and the 'Blytons,' comprised of teachers and girls. The excitement of being the first to the buzzer to identify animal characters within books was tangible! The week continued with many events and activities related to stories, including visiting the Senior School for a quiz, sharing story reading between classes, oral storytelling and culminating in Character Costume Day. Animal characters of every size, shape and colour paraded around the Senior gym before returning to the Junior Hall for the judging competition. A fun conclusion to a week of stories.



Brooksby Farm YR - 2



Gorse Hill Farm YF

## Down on the Farm



**O**n Monday 14 March YF visited Gorse Hill City Farm. The girls were very excited as they set off for a fun morning at the farm. Gary the farmer was very kind and helped us to learn more about the different animals. We saw one little lamb that was only a few hours old. It was great fun stroking the rabbits and guinea pigs, but one of the funniest moments was meeting three very tired pigs. At first they refused to wake up and come out of their pen, but Gary soon persuaded them to say hello. A fantastic time was had by all!

## Little Learners Playgroup

**L**ittle Learners is a new playgroup in School which began in November last year, and is now thriving. It's on Thursdays in term-time, at 9-10.30am, and is open to current parents and anyone locally with children 0-3 years old. Sessions cost £3, and are run by Miss Stell, who also uses her musical talents to entertain the children. Nurse Abby and Mrs Fowler often pop in and are on hand to give advice on any learning and health issues. Everyone has enjoyed seeing such adorable babies and toddlers in School, and of course, unusually for us, it's for boys too!



Y1 Investigating materials



# Senior

## GALLERY

Photo gallery on website



Gymnastics Competition



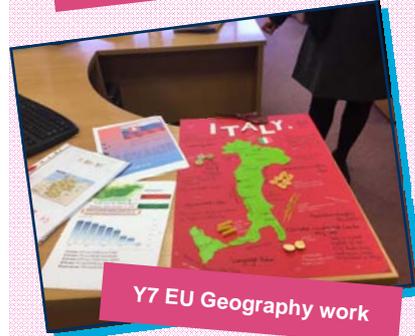
K. only joined us in February & has already signed The Excellence Book!



Rotary Youth Speaks (Through to the Regional Final)



House Debating Final (Bradgate won)



Y7 EU Geography work

### Venezia Bellissima!

**O**n the 11 February, 19 of us travelled to Venice from Luton airport. Arriving at lunch time, we travelled to our hotel by water taxi. We visited St Mark's Square and also St Mark's Basilica on our first day. The views over Venice from the top of the Basilica were beautiful. We also attended a mask-making workshop where we really enjoyed learning about the importance of masks and disguise in Venetian culture. We travelled to Verona and visited the Arena di Verona, an impressive Roman structure. We also visited the House of Juliet, which was very busy as it was Valentine's weekend! In the evening we went to the Concerto Filarmonico. We were amazed by the violinist: a 17 year old who had played solo concerts all over the world. The music was spectacular, and we all had a wonderful evening. On our final day, despite the rain, we walked to the Teatro La Fenice. The theatre had been burnt down; however, it has been renovated and decorated in lots of gold leaf to replicate the original design. We were all stunned by the amazing architecture. We had a fantastic time in Venice, and would like to thank Mrs Bott, Mrs Rose, Mrs Buxton-Thomas and Mr Tang for the wonderful experiences, and memories to cherish. *Words by Devina Pathak*

### LHS Friends – A SUCCESS STORY

**W**hen LHS Friends reformed last year, it was wonderful to know that parents' fundraising support for the girls and staff was re-established and fully operational again. The year has been nothing short of a fundraising success story. Over £2500 has been raised, and many fun activities have been enjoyed. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party followed hot on the heels of the Pre-Xmas Extravaganza and both were very well attended. A Checkmates Day was well supported and Friends regularly help at Open events, as well as support the Prefects' events, which is very much appreciated. The funds raised have gone towards fleeces in the Early Years, Cross Country kit and the Music Department. LHS Friends always welcome more help because many hold responsible jobs, as well as being busy parents, so please contact Dr Shamsa Naveed by email, on [nasir41077@yahoo.com](mailto:nasir41077@yahoo.com), or mobile, 07907815317 if you would like to help in any way. All welcome at the next meeting: Wednesday 25 April 6pm.



### Y8 Galleries of Justice Trip

**T**he Y8 girls all acted their part very well at The Galleries of Justice in Nottingham, and in both mock trials 'Scott Green' was found not guilty of intent to supply class A drugs (even though he was really guilty) owing to the defence being able to show that some of the prosecution witnesses were unreliable and hence putting doubt into the minds of the jury. The girls were encouraged to develop their social skills during the day, including on the journey, by not using any electronic devices. It was a very worthwhile day, with the girls learning useful information about the law system in this country.



Photo galleries on website

### Mountain Biking Adventures

**T**welve girls from Y8-10 left School at 8.00am on a very cold, but clear Sunday morning and arrived at Sherwood Pines to be met by Andy from First4Adventure, our instructor for the day. Then, before we knew it, we were given our bikes and having a trial around a grassy area. Andy found a muddy downhill bit that was quite uneven and taught us how to stand up out of the saddle to give a more comfortable ride. Then we set off on the blue adventure trail. This was a gorgeous, undulating ride through the forest. Sunny was the first to part company with her bike going down an uneven trail, but she was soon back on – after the back wheel had been re-connected! However, she was not the only one to fall off her bike and by the end of the day almost everyone had fallen off at some point. As one of the parents had said when dropping us off, 'You won't have had a good day unless you fall off!' After lunch we went to the skills park, where we fine-tuned our technique. All too soon it was time to return our bikes and say goodbye to Andy. Everyone agreed that it had been a fun and challenging day.



# Sixth



Dear Readers,

**W**ith the Easter Holidays right around the corner, the time has come for my final column as we hand over our Prefect roles to the Y12s. Prefect hustings were held last week, with 15 girls applying for positions. The girls had to produce a video or speech which the entire school watched in assembly. They each did a fantastic job of 'selling themselves'. However, special mention goes to Claire Zhang for her artistic skills and creativity. Roles will be revealed on the last day of term which, not coincidentally, is also the night of the Spring Ball. The Prefect Team mustered up a last minute burst of energy to finish preparations for the ball: we hand-wrote names onto over a hundred invitations, guillotined place cards perfectly straight, and transported sizeable boxes of chair-covers up and down stairs. Hopefully our efforts will come to fruition and everyone will have an enjoyable night! Of course, the Easter Holidays always signify that it's time to start revising for exams...but first we'll enjoy our Ball and the end of a very busy term.

Thanks for reading my column this past year.

**Aditi Pandey**

Photo gallery on website

## U18 BADMINTON COUNTY CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

**B**oth our Under 18 A and B squads made it through to the County Finals in March, having played league matches since September 2015. The A team won their league, making them strong contenders for

the title and the B team came second in their league, beating almost all the oppositions' A teams. The County Finals were a tense and exciting affair. Both our teams battled it out with Loughborough High and Beauchamp College to decide on the finals places. The performances were amazing, as was the team spirit. It was the last school badminton matches for almost the whole team, as they will leave for University this summer, so it was a special and memorable evening for us all. The B team came 4th in the County – a brilliant result and well deserved. Our A team WON the Finals and for the second year running remain the unbeaten County Champions. Congratulations to the Captain, Roshni, and her wonderful team!



## AS Conferences Stretch Girls



**G**irls studying politics and psychology benefited from revision conferences in March. The Y12 AS politics revision conference in London, which was led by Neil McNaughton and Andrew Colclough, was inspirational to the five students who attended. It enabled them to refine their knowledge and understanding and introduced high level thinking skills which tested their mettle. On the 18 March AS psychologists had the opportunity to attend an AS revision workshop provided by tutor2u at the Vue cinema in Starcity, Birmingham. The workshop gave students lots of advice on effective exam technique and hints and tips on how to organise their revision. Girls really enjoyed the interactive nature of the workshop and particularly enjoyed the comfortable cinema seating!



## LAWYERS IN THE MAKING

**F**our girls in Y13 are committed to studying law at university in 2016. Anjani, Anika, Ayesha and Khadijah have offers from Exeter, Nottingham Trent, Nottingham/Durham, and DMU between them. Anjani, who needs three As to get into Exeter, said that her interest in law was sparked when she was chosen by the School to visit Auschwitz where she witnessed first-hand the atrocities there. Anika, who hopes to go to Nottingham Trent and needs to gain ABB in her A levels, is interested in medical and family law. Ayesha, who needs to secure an A\* and two As for a place at Nottingham or Durham, says studying law will be fun and interesting. Khadijah, who has secured an unconditional offer from DMU, believes the law to be the backbone of society, and is interested in business and particularly patents law.



## Future Events Diary.....

- **Little Learners Playgroup**  
Thursdays, Term-time, Junior Hall. Open to all parents & community. 9-10.30am.
- **Open Morning Thursday 28 April, 9-11.30am**
- **Year 13 Leavers' Lunch, Friday 13 May, 12.45pm**
- **Summer Concert, Monday 20 June**
- **FU Sports Afternoon, Tuesday 21 June, 2pm & Family Fun Session until 5.30pm**
- **Y1-5 Sports Day, Friday 24 June, 1.30-3.30pm**
- **LHS Big Walk, Sunday 26 June**
- **Senior Sports Day, Monday 4 July**
- **Summer Prize Giving, Tuesday 5 July, 2pm**
- **Leavers' Service, Thursday 7 July, 11am**