

Autumn Term First Half 2011 www.leicesterhigh.co.uk



It was lovely to see parents and friends of Leicester High at the Awards Ceremony in September. The girls continue to inspire us all with what they achieve both within and outside school. We are very conscious that the girls enjoy high quality teaching and facilities and I am pleased to announce a new initiative which will mean that other schools in the area can access these, working alongside our own pupils. Our Masterclass programme, managed by Dr Hills, started with a Netball Tournament this month, which saw 5 local schools enjoying some excellent coaching and competitive play. Next month we are inviting gifted and talented girls in local schools to enjoy a Saturday maths session with us. We have more sessions planned, so watch this space! JB

Over 200 prizes given at Senior School Awards

On Thursday 22 September the Senior School held its annual Awards Ceremony at the De Montfort Hall. Over 200 prizes and certificates were distributed in recognition of the academic, sporting, musical and artistic achievements of the girls over the past academic year. Jessica Lee, MP for Erewash, was guest speaker, and she urged everyone to participate in school life to the full,



because it triggered not just the passions and interests for the rest of one's life, but the friends made and the bonds formed at school were some of the strongest and most permanent in later life. Friends and families were also entertained by an impressive display of musicality from the school orchestra, as well as the intermediate, senior and chamber choirs.

Exam Celebrations



Leicester High is within the top 150 schools in the country for GCSE and A level results, out of over 570 schools. In addition, the girls take the more rigorous IGCSE in maths and modern languages, making the performance even more impressive. It is still only a minority of schools which opt for these qualifications in the UK. Particularly noteworthy are the A* results at History A level, as every student achieved this coveted top grade. Overall, quarter of all A level grades were, in fact A*: a fantastic achievement.

Page 2 Junior

- New Girls' Views
- Learning is Fun
- Hi-5 Netball Tournament

Page 3 Senior

- Out and About
- Amnesty Youth Group
- German School Visit
- Netball Superclinic

Page 4 Sixth

- Girls in the News
- Meet the new Head of Sixth Form
- Bonding Day
- New Year 12 Leadership Opportunities

More stories on the website

www.leicesterhigh.co.uk
Telephone 0116 270 5338



Junior

New Girls' Views



"It's very good and different. The clubs are fantastic; I love knitting."



"I enjoy the art and everyone is very friendly."



"I liked learning about the history of the school and the topic work. The dinners are delicious!"



"It's very nice here. I like the playing and sharing. I like the see-saw, as I don't have one at home."

"This school is very friendly. I like having the Senior School- the older girls inspire us."



Learning is fun!



The girls in the Foundation Unit enjoyed a very successful visit to the

Year 4

David Attenborough Arboretum, where they had a fantastic day, finding lots of creepy-crawlies, leaves, and conkers, followed by a delicious picnic. It was outdoor learning at its best in the glorious sunshine.

On Friday 30 September Year 1 visited the Abbey Pumping

Year 1

Station for a 1950s seaside experience. The weather was perfect for the old-fashioned trip to the 'seaside'. The girls learned some traditional songs and games and they particularly enjoyed sitting on a restored 1950s bus and pretending to go on their journey to Skegness.



Year 4 had a taste of Victorian life recently when Miss Whatmore, a 'Victorian lady', visited the class for the day. The children dressed appropriately in Victorian attire and learned about Queen Victoria's life. They then experienced a Victorian classroom lesson and enjoyed playing with some Victorian toys. The girls also learned how difficult it was to keep a baby in clean clothes compared with today! The afternoon finished with some excellent story telling which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



Year R

This day, combined with a Victorian tea party which Year 4 prepared themselves, completed a very interesting topic on the Victorians.

Leicester High Hosts Hi-5 Netball Tournament

On Saturday 8 October, Leicester High hosted a Netball Tournament for ten teams from five schools in the area: Stoneygate, Launde, Foxton, Gilmorton and Farndon Fields. 63 girls, accompanied by their coaches and many parents, enjoyed some competitive play. Girls in the LHS Sixth Form umpired the games, as part of their coaching training programme. Stoneygate won overall, closely followed by Foxton and LHS. The girls started the session with some coaching from two Super League players: Jade Forbes-Whatley and Lucy Adams, and then enjoyed a break with refreshments kindly provided by Waitrose, Oadby, before starting the matches. Desree Neville, who organised the tournament said, "Netball is a key sport for us at LHS, and following on from the Netball Superclinc in the summer, this tournament has put us on the map in the area as promoters of this sport."



Senior



Boost to languages with German Partner School Visit

From the moment they were greeted at the station with a “Willkommen” sign to the final farewells, there was an atmosphere of excitement and fun when the Gymnasium am Stefansberg visited Leicester High School. There has been a long-established penfriend link between the two schools for many years. Twenty delightful pupils and two members of staff joined in the lessons with their hosts and were most impressed with the warm welcome from our girls. They spent the evening with their host families and enjoyed a variety of activities, including shopping at Highcross, going out for a meal, seeing a film and bowling. The visit has forged new friendships and has continued to strengthen the links between our German Partner School and Leicester High School.

Netball Super Clinic 2011

In bright green T-shirts, 49 committed Leicester High School for Girls netballers undertook an intense training at Parklands Leisure Centre indoor courts on Saturday 3 September. The sessions consisted of cardiovascular and skill-based activities, followed by court specific tactics on attack and defence and finished with team play. The guest coaches were Jo McKinney and Rebecca James, who both represented Wales at the World Championships in Singapore earlier this year. Jo shared her specialist defensive skills with the girls and Becky made sure our shooters are up to their task. Desree Neville, Head of Netball at Leicester High, shared her centre court expertise

too. It was a challenging and tiring day but highly enjoyable and we know that our teams will be rewarded with success in the coming season.

New Amnesty Youth Group

In the 50th anniversary of the establishment of one of the world's most influential human rights campaign groups, Amnesty International, Leicester High School has now established its first Amnesty Youth Group. Mr Ken Lowles, a volunteer with the Leicestershire branch, came to Senior School assembly to introduce the work of the organisation to all of the girls. A team of six Year 11 students: Ayesha Girach, Ella Wright, Olivia Choudhury, Elizabeth Hobbs, Océane Conroy and Piyal Modi will carry out campaigns during the course of the year, the first being a campaign called 'Kites for Women's Rights' which is designed to raise awareness of the plight of women in Afghanistan. All girls are invited to add their support to the Amnesty group and all ideas for publicity and campaigning are welcome.



Out & About Years 11 and 13 Cranedale Biology Trip



Years 10 and 11



English Trip: “An Inspector Calls”

Year 9 Ironbridge History Trip



Girls dig up our industrial past.

Year 7 Sheringham Geography Trip



A residential geography field trip and bonding adventure for Year 7 at the end of half-term to Hilltop Outdoor Centre in Beeston Regis, Sheringham. Photographs next issue.

Sixth

Girls in the News



When it comes to helping others, Leicester High girls are not afraid of speaking out and taking action. Devi Thakrar and Hafsa Ali have been outstanding in their efforts and have featured in local and national press and television in recent months. Devi spent 10 days volunteering in the slums of an Indian city, helping in two schools and a leprosy village. When Central

TV came to interview Devi talking about her experience to her friends, the reporter was very impressed, saying: "I just had to make the story longer than normal because the girls were so brilliant." Hafsa Ali, no stranger to campaigning and a youth advisor to Leicester City Council, has been featured on Channel 4 about her work with Battlefront. James Emtage of Battlefront, says: "Hafsa is a wonderful young person with a true commitment to tackling youth unemployment." Congratulations to Devi and Hafsa for making such commendable efforts to make a difference in today's world.

Sixth Form Bonding Day



As part of their induction to the Sixth Form, our new Year 12 students joined their Year 13 peers on a



team-building day at Beaumanor Outdoor Learning Centre. The day was designed to develop leadership skills, as well giving students an opportunity to make new friends. Activities included constructing a human crane and building a free-standing structure out of logs and rope which could support the weight of three group members. The girls enjoyed the various activities, describing them as "challenging, but fun."

New Year 12 Leadership Opportunities

Congratulations to the following Year 12 girls who have been given the opportunity to support Year 13 in the major roles some of the girls have in their final year.

House Secretaries:

Mona Damani (Beaumanor), **Ellie Cheyette** (Bradgate), **Ffion Lamont** (Charnwood)

Assistant Prefects:

Shivaanee Lodhia (Junior Department), **Laura-Jane Addo-Donga** (Languages), **Kiranjit Sangha** (Student Council), **Simran Sanghera** (Charity), **Hiba Hasnain** (Debating), **Charlotte Patterson** (Performing Arts), **Shivani Shah** (Science), **Shreya Raithatha** (Library and Careers), **Hope Siesage** (Sports), **Erin Catterall** and **Aruna Ubhi** (DofE)

In the Spotlight

New Head of Sixth Form

Angela Lancini



Why did you want to work at Leicester High?

I was interested in working in a 3-18 school to be able to see how students progressed as they work their way through a school. This wasn't possible in a 14-18 school. Also, after working at Beauchamp College, which is such a large school, I wanted to work in a more intimate environment where it is possible to know all the students and staff.

What areas are you going to focus on?

I would like to develop the links between LHS sixth form and other schools.

What strengths do you see in the school?

The time and support that girls in the sixth form have with their UCAS applications is second to none. It would not be possible to give students so much individual attention in a larger school. Also, the pastoral care the girls receive is excellent - they are supported on so many different levels.

What experience from other schools will you be sharing with us?

One example would be that LHS has joined Beauchamp College's Oxbridge exchange with Uppingham School. Seven Year 13 girls are joining Mr Chappell, Mrs Dobson and I on a visit to Uppingham where they will have mock Oxbridge interviews. This formal and imposing setting will be excellent preparation for prospective Oxbridge interviews and give our girls the opportunity to network with other Oxbridge applicants.

How do you think girls' schools differ from co-ed?

I find the girls to be less self-conscious during class discussions; it is refreshing to hear their open and honest comments. The girls are really focused on learning and achieving their best, thanks to the girls only environment.

What are your ambitions for the girls/sixth form?

To help prepare girls for higher education and employment in the twenty-first century, by ensuring that they gain invaluable and transferable skills during their time here at LHS.