

Autumn Term Second Half 2010



Hello and welcome to this first edition of LHS e-news. There are so many exciting and interesting things going on in school that I feel it is vital that we update you more frequently. E-news will be emailed at the end of every half term, and our website will be updated regularly too. The news pages cover all the diverse achievements of the girls, both inside and outside the classroom. There are photographs and stories, so do log onto www.leicesterhigh.co.uk to see what is going on.

Lady Gretton opens new wing



Governors, special guests, staff and girls were delighted to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Jennifer, Lady Gretton on Monday 11 October to mark the grand opening of the school's new wing. Lady Gretton arrived to the cheers of the Junior Department girls who lined the drive, waving specially made LHS flags, where she was presented with a posy of flowers by the eldest and youngest members of the Junior Department. She then met Mr Paul Bonnett, Chair

of Governors, Headmistress Mrs Julia Burns, Head Girl **Hannah Bristow** and Deputy Head Girl **Avni Patel**, who escorted her whilst she toured the new extension: six science laboratories, a large art and design studio, a new language computer room and a suite of classrooms. Afterwards, Lady Gretton unveiled a special plaque to warm applause from senior girls gathered in the new courtyard garden.



Sixth Form Leavers succeed in a competitive market



There are some interesting and pleasing trends with the Sixth Form leavers this year. 95% gained their first choice university, and in terms of courses, there was a bias towards the professions. Five girls gained places studying medicine, three law, and one each in dentistry, optometry, and pharmacy. The academic requirements for these courses are extremely high, and also competition is highest for these subjects: much higher than the average which is 38 applications

for every one place at university. The importance of careers advice grows, hence the Careers Convention event this term, detailed on the next page. The most popular university was Manchester, followed by Birmingham, Bristol and Imperial College London. All are in The Russell Group, representing the top universities in the UK.

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to find out

information about:

- School calendars
- Latest news
- Parents' letters
- Junior information



Junior

Show Your Spots...Let's Raise Lots!



The Junior Department certainly raised lots with almost £250 collected for this year's Children in Need charity event. The day was led by six Year 5 School Council representatives: **Rakshita Kumar, Riya Ghosh, Alice Goldsmith, Swetha Ganeshpanchan, Sophia Banwait and Bhavani Jethwa.** Morning assembly was taken over by a catwalk where all classes paraded their spotty outfits. **Maya Jutha** (Year F) and **Krishna Tanna** (Year 5) were

awarded prizes for the most creative costumes. School Council representatives led an activity for each class, from colouring competitions to 'Stick the Nose on Pudsey' and 'Hook a Pudsey'. The winners were: **Shruthi Padmabushan** (Year F), **Florence Dobney** (Year R), **Rheya Johri** (Year 2), and **Rakhi Neyta and Aanika Bakshi** (Year 4).

Diwali Lights up the Junior Department



The Foundation Unit was joined by ITV News on Friday 4 November to film the 3-5 year old girls learning about Diwali. The girls were engrossed in Indian food tasting and used their senses to develop their vocabulary as they explained how the foods smelt and tasted. Diva lamps were modelled from clay and then painted in bright colours, once dry. The girls were all very involved and understood that this was a special festival. **Raquel Berry, Charlotte Smith and Carmen Girn** appeared on the 6 o'clock news talking about Diwali.

Rock on!

In science this term, Year 3 girls have been investigating rocks and soils. They have covered a range of activities, including looking at the three main rock types, testing the hardness of rocks and discussing how soil is formed. The work they have produced is excellent, and is on display.



'Miracle Child' Visit

Birhan Woldu, the child whose face came to represent the plight of Ethiopia during the 1984 famine, was welcomed on Thursday 25 November. The girls had been introduced to Birhan's life story in an assembly at the start of the week so that they could begin to think of questions to ask her. **Grace Lord, Kimberley Hew, Constance Davies, Raveena Desai,**

Nayya Patel and Rejoice Toendepi were lucky enough to have their questions answered by Birhan. Her story has certainly inspired the girls to realise that anything in life is possible. The Junior Department is committed to maintaining links with the African Children Educational Trust Charity and raising funds for them.

Congratulations

Niharika Paul sat the Year 6 Maths Challenge and will be awarded a Gold Certificate – an impressive result, well done. She also wrote a very clear algebraic solution to a maths problem and had it published on a mathematical website for enrichment activities in mathematics: www.nrich.maths.org. She also signed the Excellence Book this term.

Alice Goldsmith and Amatulla Sadikot have been competing in a county swimming competition, The Leicestershire Grand Prix.

Riya Ghosh has been selected for the County Badminton Squad training sessions.

Mylan Basra raised £100 in the Foundation Unit sponsored Triathlon.

Nisha Mistry has been selected to perform in the chorus at Curve Theatre's 'The King and I'.

Leicester Drama Society Festival success for: **Shivani Kumar**, 1st place, and The Judith Pearson Cup. Merits in poetry for: **Pooja Goyal, Esha Visram, Amatulla Sadikot.** Duologue acting: **Annieka Mistry and Bhavani Jethwa**, 1st place. **Annieka Mistry** also won The Martynne Pennell Shield for the most entertaining junior performance.

Senior

Careers Convention 2010



There was an impressive attendance by parents and Years 10-13 pupils at the 2010 Careers Convention held on Wednesday 10 November. The event enabled girls to gain a valuable

"I loved it as the people there were very friendly and informative."

insight into a variety of career opportunities and develop their interests which will hopefully lead to a rewarding career path. 24 professions were represented, including: accountancy, civil engineering, dentistry, design and marketing, pharmacy, physiotherapy, and quantity surveying. The medical profession was well represented by Leicester University's Medical School. The Law stall enabled the girls to understand the difference between a barrister and solicitor. The three presentations: "The University Application Process", by Mrs Jean Baxter; "A Guide to Applying to Study Medicine", by Professor Tom Robinson, 'Fancy being a Journalist' by Mr Bernie Choudhury, were extremely well received by all who attended.



Did you know....?

The School Library has 11,278 books, and 200 new books were bought during the Autumn term. An exciting new innovation is the purchasing of a Kindle in the New Year, which allows books to be read electronically. Most students have three or four books out on loan at a time, and Year 6 are particularly keen borrowers.

Discovery Day



Years 5 and 6 students from all over the county joined our own Year 5s for Discovery Day on Friday 19 November to compete in a series of team construction challenges. The girls worked against the clock building the highest free-standing structure, the lowest structure, as well as solving tricky colour code patterns.

Madrid Trip



In October half-term, 23 girls set out with Mrs Dwyer and Mrs Formoy to discover the delights of Madrid. For four days everyone stayed in a small hotel in the vibrant heart of the city, near the Gran Via, from where they set out each day to broaden their cultural awareness. The party visited the art museums of Reina Sofia and El Prado, the historical El Escorial and Palacio Real and the Bernabeu Stadium. The girls saw the sights of the Puerta del Sol and the Plaza Mayor, boated on the lake in the Retiro Park in the sunshine, went around on foot and by metro, sauntering or running as time allowed, meeting interesting characters and finding opportunities to bring back special souvenirs, be they sweatshirts, scarves or rather lovely boots.

Solution to exam stress

Aby Cox, the school nurse, is initiating a Yoga course in the Spring term for students who need to de-stress for the exam season. Classes are free and offered at lunchtimes. More details will follow.

Congratulations

Hannah Prashad and Mischa Chaya Haria won second and third prize in a law competition at the Careers Convention.

The Primary Maths Challenge for Year 6 took place at the end of November this term. There were some tricky questions and excellent answers this year.

Bronze Certificates go to:

Sabika Ahmed
Alisha Gadhia
Roshni Jutha
Micha Mistry
Shanice Kistry
Maya Patel
Maria Hancock
Praveen Ragi
Ruhi Vaitha

Silver Certificates go to:

Shivani Ganesh
Jasvin Kaur
Saffron Kaur
Shreeya Thakrar

Gold Certificates go to:

Hannah Erlebach
Miriam Hussein

Five Year 10 girls took part in the Rotary Young Chef Competition. **Risha Patel** came first, **Ella Wright** and **Alisha Bakshi** joint second, **Nicole Chahal** fourth, and **Elizabeth Charles** fifth.

Janki Dahya, Urvi Sedani, Charlotte Hall, Ammarah Riaz, Sarika Patel, Misbah Kassam, Imaan Nabeela Duke, Devina Pathak, Maria Hancock, Natasha Neilan and Sophie Jefford signed the Excellence Book this term. **Hannah Erlebach** and **Madeleine Turner** signed the book twice.

Simran Roshan is to be commended for her presentation about climbing Scafell Pike.

Sophie Jefford came 3rd in the 14-15 age category of The Hope Against Cancer poetry competition.

Sixth

Rutland Water Induction Day



with everyone on board. The day was highly enjoyable and the perfect ice-breaker to form firm friendships between the two years.

On September 6, Years 12 and 13 left for an adventure-filled day at Rutland Water. The day started off with everyone being given a map and compass and challenged to orienteer their way around looking for certain clues and answers to questions. After lunch, they headed to the water in order to take part in canoeing, kayaking and raft building. After struggling into the wet suits, everyone got into their canoes and, not after long, into the water. The next challenge saw the girls grouped together not only to build a raft, but to get it to float

Badminton News

After school on Fridays are busy with over 40 pupils regularly attending badminton club, using 8 courts at Parklands Leisure Centre. Mrs Martin who runs the clubs is thrilled: **“The numbers and enthusiasm for badminton is fantastic”**. 70 pupils turned up at the beginning of term for after school badminton – the numbers were so high that an extra club has been put on at lunchtime for Year 8 to cope with the demand. This term School has entered the U14, U16 and U18 Badminton Schools League, and matches began with the U18 team playing QE ‘A’ team. Greg Howes, the Leicester City Badminton Development Officer, came to the club to give a special coaching session. He said he could not believe the numbers and wanted to see the enthusiastic badminton squad at work for himself.

Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys Visit



“With hard work and a bit of good fortune, you can always have success in life.” So said Sir Alec Jeffreys to the assembled school on the day he opened the 6 new science laboratories at LHS. Year 6 helped the Sixth Form mark the opening on 7 September with a colourful balloon launch and official ribbon cutting ceremony. Afterwards Sir Alec spoke to Years 12 and 13 about his ground-breaking work on DNA finger printing and genetic human diversity.

Soft Touch Charity Concert



The Performing Arts Prefect, **Hannah Culley**, organised a vibrant and diverse Performing Arts Evening on Thursday 7 October 2010. All funds raised on the evening were in aid of Soft Touch, a local arts charity working with disadvantaged young people, and people who feel like they live on the edge of society. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed a very memorable evening, which so far has raised over £300.

Congratulations

Anjali Prashad, Ramanpreet Rai, Jennifer Millar, Annam Umerji, Eleanor Hall, Rebecca Millar, Sharon Priya, Suresh Kumar, Sonia Manikam, Harbandan Kaur Nainu all passed their Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering.

Kim Murphy won First Prize in a competition at the Careers Convention, which entitles her to 2 days work experience at Moosa-Duke solicitors in Leicester.

Sudeshika Perera and Sarah Sheikh have won Gold Crest Awards and Nuffield Foundation Bursaries.

Hannah Culley signed the Excellence Book this term.

Hafsah Ali is to be congratulated for her work over the last year on many youth boards and at conferences, including work for the Equal and Human Rights Commission, BBC Blast Youth Panel, and the UK Youth Parliament. She also met with Nick Clegg this term.

Malvika Jaganmohan is to be congratulated for her work as a journalist on the local youth newspaper, Leicester Wave, and work experience as “Chief Executive” for a day, with Leicester City Council.