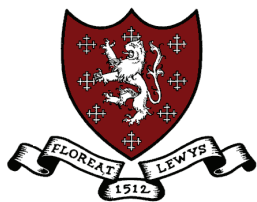


January 2009

Spring Term



*Lewes Old Grammar School*

**Inside this issue:**

Letter from the Head Teacher	1
Master Chef	2
Sport News	2
Music News	3
Public Speaking	3
Key Dates	4

# Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and felt that the length of the holiday was about right. The pupils are now settled back in school and it appears a good time to update you on developments and reflect on any changes to our structure. I hope that you have had a chance to view our new website. One key development here is the zone that has been created for existing parents. It is still in its early stages but should soon provide you with all the information that you may require as you oversee your children's education. One key piece of information relates to term dates. Many will remember that the current structure for term lengths and holidays was reformed relatively recently and we have set the dates for the academic year 2009 – 2010 mirroring those of this year. We have provisionally set the term dates for the following year 2010 – 2011 but I would welcome your thoughts on the current structure and any recommendations or observations that you may have. Clearly academic priorities provide the primary framework for these decisions but a degree of flexibility still exists about the dates for two years time. You can email me with your thoughts on [headspa@logs.uk.com](mailto:headspa@logs.uk.com).

Educational changes continue to come thick and fast. Most A level specifications changed from last September and, on top of this, new GCSE courses are being introduced in most subjects for September 2009. English, Maths and ICT are being revamped in 2010 along with revisions to the new Science course, which were only changed two years ago. The major implications of these amendments are threefold.

Firstly coursework has largely disappeared but where it has been retained it has been reconstituted as controlled assessments. Essentially this means that in order to verify that the material is solely the candidate's work, all that is submitted for assessment must actually be undertaken in the presence of the teacher. Although many of us will be pleased that this will improve the integrity of the qualifications, we are concerned that it could stifle the opportunities for individual initiative and flair in a number of areas notably Art and DT. We are investigating ways to ensure that the creativity of pupils is not compromised by these changes.

Secondly the specifications have in most cases become modular. This means that the courses have been deliberately structured so that candidates can take individual units at different times in their GCSE years. In some subjects, exams sessions exist in both January and June but in other cases in June only. In some cases this subdivision into assessed units seems rather arbitrary. We need to ensure that the whole educational experience does not become fragmented and, as teachers, we need to guard against simply teaching component parts for upcoming exams. We will not allow modules to prevent students from truly studying a subject, and so learning to be good physicists, linguists and historians rather than just effective examinees.

The final implication relates to the level of teaching time lost throughout Year 10 and 11 with all the examination sittings. We need to strike the right balance between giving each student the best opportunity to maximise his or her qualifications and maximising the contact time between each student and their teacher. The examination timetable for Summer 2010 is not available until June 2009 but early indications suggest that it will replicate the same sessions for GCSE students in Year 10 with those in Year 11. This suggests that half a term of teaching could be lost with pupils in exam rooms rather than the classroom. To counter this, LOGS is planning that, from next academic year, students at the Senior School will move to their new academic timetable at half term in the Summer. This will therefore affect pupils from Year 8 and below. Staff are currently working hard rewriting schemes of work so that the learning that needs to be mastered and the skills that need to be acquired, prior to GCSEs, can be properly delivered in a shorter period of time. I will ensure that all parents are kept fully informed of these changes and will hope to clarify the position for current Year 9 students at the upcoming options evening.

Can I finish by thanking all parents for their continued support during these very difficult economic times. I am aware that many are making big sacrifices to keep their children at LOGS. The number of applications to join us next year have increased and our projections are that the School numbers will be higher in September but we are not complacent and we do realise how much we rely on your support as we plan your child's education in the next few years.

Yours sincerely,

R Blewitt

## Master chef 08

For three lunchtimes last term various pupils have been chopping, peeling and cooking to produce a dish worthy of the title Master Chef for their house.



Each year was represented by three members from each house who submitted a recipe that could be cooked and presented within the lunch time. The results were judged by some enthusiastic volunteers from the staff and I wish to acknowledge especially the help and support of Senora Prada Garcia who also made the customized wooden spoons presented as prizes.

A good range of dishes were presented some more adventurous than others and most were successfully completed in the time.

There were of course many pasta dishes and some dishes that were not entirely home made but the standard was on the whole excellent.

Unfortunately for Malling and De Montfort they could not find any chefs in year 9 so Barbican swept the board with 4 entrants.

Students particularly worthy of note for their effort are Tim Hulsman Diamond in year 8 and representing Barbican house who cooked a delicious salmon and broccoli pasta and Jack Whyte for his perfect omelette. In year 9 Oliver Hayden won, also representing Barbican, with a pancetta and broccoli bake. Year 10 produced a wide range of dishes and cooked with a great deal of enthusiasm. Olivia Martin-Woodbridge produced an excellent tortilla, and won for Barbican Avi Patel whipped up a decadent chocolate mousse for Malling and Robert Whippy, who has never cooked at this school produced a superb coffee and walnut sponge and took second place for De Montfort.



Next term it is the turn of years 7 and 11 and those in Malling and De Montfort houses need to make a special effort to redress the balance of winners!

## Sport news

As well as the after school clubs, the department has organised and run a huge number of competitive fixtures against a host of local schools this term. We kicked off, rather appropriately, with a football tournament for each year group back in September. Since then we have played mostly 11 a-side matches. Although the results have been mixed, for a number of boys it is the first time they have played in competitive matches and they have learnt lots from the experience. A special mention goes to the boys in Year 7 and 8 who finished a wonderful season, with stylish performances against Chailey and Northease.

### Football Fixtures 2008/9

YEAR	Versus	Detail	Result	YEAR	Versus	Detail	Result
10	Tournament	6 a-side x2	4 <sup>th</sup>	8	Uplands	11 a-side	W 1-0
11	Tournament	5 a-side x 2	4 <sup>th</sup>	10/11	Heathfield	11 a-side	L 4-2
9	Tournament	6 a-side x2	5 <sup>th</sup>	9	Heathfield	11 a-side	L 9-3
8	Tournament	6 a-side x2	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7/8	Heathfield	11 a-side	L 10-2
7	Tournament	7 a-side x2	1 <sup>st</sup>	10	Beacon	11 a-side	cancelled
9	Priory	11 a-side	L 3-1	9	Beacon	11 a-side	L 3-1
7+8	Shoreham	11 a-side	W 2-0	7/8.	Beacon	11 a-side	D 4-4
8	Priory	11 a-side	W 3-1	9	Chailey	11 a-side	L 8-2
10/11	Uplands	11 a-side	L 9-3	7 + 8	Chailey	2 x 7a side	W3-2 / W4-2
9	Uplands	11 a-side	L 8-3	7 + 8	Northease	11 a-side	W 4-1

### House Sport

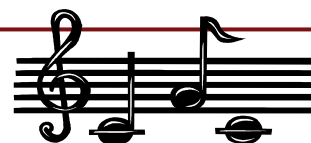
A full timetable of House competitions is fully underway. It is far too early to see any clear leader, as the results have varied across the year groups and the different sports. So far we have seen the muscles flexing in the Tug o' War, we have seen goals flying in during the Football and Netball, and most amusingly we have seen all sorts of body parts hit during Dodgeball. In the new year we move onto Indoor football, Hockey and Basketball to mention but a few.

Finally, I would also like to bring your attention to the 'Race for Life' event which as well as being a huge point scorer for the House competition, is also a wonderful way of supporting Cancer Research. I am delighted to tell you last year the students raised a whopping £1861-31, which is fantastic news. The event takes place during curriculum time in March.

Peter Twilley.



# Music News



In September Mr. Mark Orchin started full time as Head of Music at LOGS after nearly 5 years at the school as guitar tutor and instrumental music co-ordinator. The Christmas term was full of events where pupils (and some staff) performed, culminating in the successful Carol Concert which was well attended as usual and followed by the excellent house suppers – well done to all who took part.

The 'VOX' singing group has been very popular and is led by our singing teacher Rachel Munro, who also teaches singing at the Junior School as well as teaching a popular musical theatre workshop as part of senior school extra curriculum. We currently have nearly 20 members in VOX from all year groups both boys and girls.

The music department was completely overhauled last term and is fully operational with a bright and visual aspect assisted by a new set of educational posters and many projects on display created by the Year 7 and 8 classes throughout the term. A significant addition to the music department has been the introduction of PC terminals and the availability of Sibelius music software in the classroom. A small PA system has also been provided to assist school events where singing is involved, and was used to great effect at the Christmas Bazaar when the immensely successful talent contest was run.

The music department is now able to offer tuition on the following instruments from top local teachers in school time as follows;

**Guitar & bass**

**Violin**

**Drums**

**Saxophone, Clarinet & Flute**

**Singing**

**Piano**



We hope to be able to offer brass as soon as we have at least 2 pupils wishing to start. All enquiries to Mr Orchin via the school office or music department.

During 2008 several pupils achieved grades on instruments, and those we know about are;

Cora Griffiths	Piano grade 4
Caroline Pollard	Guitar grade 2
Joe Hicks	Guitar grade 2
Daniel Liddiard	Guitar grade 1
Philippa Joseph	Guitar grade 1
Freddie Hoareau	Bass grade 1

Well done to all for the hard work and commitment required for these achievements



In October a party of year 11 pupils were fortunate to get a free guided tour behind the scenes at Glyndebourne followed by a performance of Mozart's 'Magic Flute'. Pictured from left to right are Katherine Miles, Visaka Fernando, Rachel Munro, Isabel Barr, Rebecca Tucknott, Mr. Orchin and Sydney Main. Thanks go to Rachel Munro for organising this excellent event.

In 2009 we will be starting a 'Rock Orchestra' called 'LOG'a'Rhythm' for about 12 players and we intend to start a small ensemble for the orchestral players. In the summer term we will be holding a LOGS music & dance concert so please watch the website for details.

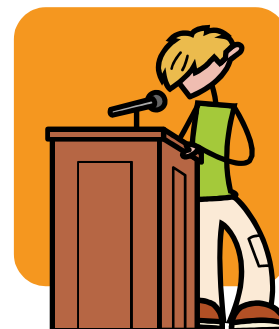
## Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition

Our team of Harrison Bourne, Katherine Miles and Visaka Fernando recently won the local area round of the Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition.

Harrison's talk, entitled 'I'm a Nonentity Get Me Into There' reflected on our current fascination with the cult of celebrity. The Judges praised his presentation its balance of humour and serious content. Katherine Miles presented a well received vote of thanks and the presentation was chaired by Visaka, who was awarded the prize as best chairperson of the evening. Similarly Harrison took the individual award for best talk.

In February the team continue in the County Round to be held in Chichester.

Derek Goss



## Key Dates for Spring & Summer Term



Wednesday January 14th 7.00pm  
Tuesday January 20th  
Thursday February 5th 7.00pm  
Wednesday February 11th 7:00 pm  
Thursday February 26th 7:00 pm  
Friday March 6th  
Tuesday March 10th 7.00pm  
**Thursday March 12th 7.00 pm**  
Thursday 19th - Friday 20th March

### Summer Term

Monday 20th - Friday 24th April  
Tuesday April 28th  
Monday 4th May  
Friday 8th May 11:00 am  
Tuesday June 9th  
Tuesday June 16th 7:30 pm  
Tuesday 23rd - Friday 26th June  
Wednesday June 24th

Year 11 Parents Evening  
Senior School Open Morning  
Year 7 Parents Meeting  
Sixth Form Open Evening  
Year 9 Options Meeting  
PTA Quiz Night  
Year 10 Parents Evening  
**Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening (change of date)**  
Year 9 Ypres Trip

Year 10 Biology & Geography Field trip  
Whole School Open Morning  
School closed Bank Holiday  
Year 11 Leavers Service  
Whole School Open Morning  
Year 12 parents & pupils UCAS meeting  
Year 10 Work Experience  
New Parents Meeting



### 'Eco-Garden' at Morley House

Stephen Gehrels, from Brighton Permaculture Trust, advised the Year 10 design students on their designs for an 'Eco-Garden' at Morley House.

The Year 10 students are developing plans, models and concepts to be ready for a 'dragons den' style presentation next month.



### Crown court Service

HUGH T. BURNETT OBE DL  
HIGH SHERIFF OF EAST SUSSEX  
20th January 2009

Dear Robert

The School's contribution to our Service yesterday was the highlight and so many people have said appreciative things about your Choir — their wonderful singing and excellent behaviour. They were terrific and I thank you so much both for offering the Choir and for choosing such lovely anthems.

### **PUPIL ABSENCE**

If your child is absent, please contact the school as soon as possible, and before 9:00am

For your convenience you can leave a message on the answer phone before 8am, send us a fax, or email us on:

[office@logs.uk.com](mailto:office@logs.uk.com)

If your child arrives late, he or she must sign in at Reception in Tyne House otherwise this will be treated as unauthorised absence.

All phone calls and emails should be confirmed in writing to your child's tutor as soon as possible.

### **WHOLE SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

#### **YEARS RECEPTION -13**

If you wish to use this on service on occasional journey basis, you must book a seat with Miss Elliott at the Senior School Office, tel: 01273 472634.

The charge for occasional journey is £3.50.

Lewes Old Grammar School  
Morley House  
7 King Henry's Road Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 1BT  
Phone: 01273 473246  
Fax: 01273 479706  
Email: [officejs@logs.uk.com](mailto:officejs@logs.uk.com)

**We're on the Web**  
[www.logs.uk.com](http://www.logs.uk.com)

Lewes Old Grammar School  
Senior School  
140 High Street Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 1XS  
Phone: 01273 472634  
Fax: 01273 476948  
Email: [office@logs.uk.com](mailto:office@logs.uk.com)