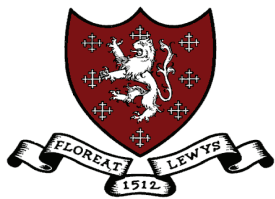


September 2009

Autumn Term



Lewes Old Grammar School

Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the summer break. The Met forecaster's optimism for a "barbeque summer" here in the UK proved to be largely misplaced but I hope that you found some decent weather and are suitably refreshed and revitalised. Much of the development work due for completion at the start of term was handed over on time and on budget. The Mayor of Lewes opened the new Sixth Form Block with other councillors and Norman Baker, our MP in attendance. This new facility has already proved a hit with the students and is a further step forward in our ongoing programme of improvements to the School. The Trustees and I are determined that students should have access to the best facilities available to aid their learning.

The other major project involving the reconfiguration of the ground floor of Tyne House and the extension to the library has been delayed. The planning authorities and the conservation officer have continued to place obstacles in our way and have thwarted our attempts to discharge the onerous planning conditions but I remain confident that this will also be completed by the end of this term at the latest. The contractors, M & G, the rest of the team working on these developments and particularly our project manager, the Trustee Tim Laker, deserve our gratitude.

The School has already earmarked the next phase of our development plan and three new planning applications will soon be submitted. These cover a purpose built foundation stage building at Morley House; in addition, a new Music School at the rear of Mead House and the opening up and complete refurbishment of the attic of Mead House to provide more classrooms and free up other areas for recreation and extensions to the catering arrangements. There is clearly a need to remain cautious in these difficult economic times but we expect these three projects to be completed within the next five years with work starting on the first of these once Trustees have agreed the priority within 12 months.

The School uses St John's Sub Castro Church for many of its annual events because it is the biggest venue in Lewes. It is a beautiful building but many will have noticed that certain parts have fallen into disrepair. We have been told that an ongoing programme of restoration has started which will affect our ability to use this for our Harvest festival and possibly our Carol concerts. I have considered other available venues but they will affect what can be offered and the size of the permitted audience. Regrettably, I have taken the decision to cancel the usual Harvest Festival service which would have been held in this church on Tuesday October 13th 2009. The School will, of course, observe Harvest Festival during assembly time.

Public Examination results for both A Level and GCSE were largely as expected. At A Level the A & B grades were around 60%, slightly down on last year but enabling most of the Upper Sixth to progress on to their first choice university. At GCSE the pass rate was once again over 90% with the grades at A* & A again nudging 40%. These figures are good but with even stronger cohorts coming through we would expect higher grades in future years. We will however remain true to our ethos and not massage these statistics by casting aside our weaker students as we pursue league table positions. Celebrating the success of individual students who fulfil their potential remains our goal.

I am concerned that some parents have again experienced problems in obtaining uniform from John Lewis. I am convinced that our future needs will be best served by cancelling our current contract with John Lewis and either appointing a local supplier or providing this service within the school. I apologise for the disrupted service and any anxieties that this may have caused and will update you as soon as possible regarding the new arrangements.

The Whole School photograph was taken on Monday September 14th and details of where to view and how to purchase the finished product are contained in this newsletter. Can I finish by asking for your assistance in ensuring that any sponsor money that has not yet been handed in from last term's Whole School Walk be given to tutors by Monday 21st so that a final total can be calculated. I look forward to seeing you at one of the meetings or events listed on the key dates contained within this newsletter.

Yours sincerely

R Blewitt

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The launch of LOGS Community Notice Board

Communication and networking are an important part of a community and with this in mind we are proposing to establish a LOGS Community Notice Board for everyone connected with Lewes Old Grammar School. This facility will be on the 'Parents' page of the school web site.

It will be a gateway for everyone connected with the school to have the opportunity to liaise, meet and contact people associated with LOGS and make them aware of their expertise and enterprises. It is likely that there are many who are not aware of each others resources and at the same time it will be an additional way for people to become acquainted.

If you would like to register your business on the directory you may do so with a fifty word description. Companies will be divided into categories. If you require a link to your own business web site this can be added for fee of £ 25.00. Each September all members will have to confirm their details to remain on the web site.

If members felt it would be beneficial, special networking events may be arranged from time to time and I would welcome any comments and suggestions.

If you would like to become part of "LOGS Community" please complete the registration form which is on the web site and return to me at goulds@logs.uk.com

Stephanie Gould

Business Development Officer



REMINDER

Thursday 5th November, Bonfire night the school will close at 3:00pm. School transport has been arranged to leave the school at 3:00pm.



Whole School Photograph

The whole school photograph was taken by The School Photography Company.

www.tspc.biz

Prints will be available to purchase in 10-14 days time. (This will be after approval has been given by school).

Everyone will be issued with an individual order form, reference number and password.

Orders will be made direct to TSPC either on line or by using the supplied prepaid envelope.

Prints will then be delivered straight to homes within 14 days of receipt of the order.



TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2009

HALF TERM 19th – 30th October
End of term **12.45 pm** Friday 11th December

Spring Term 2010

Pupils return Tuesday 5th January
HALF TERM 15th – 19th February
End of term **3.30 pm** Friday 26th March

Summer Term 2009

Pupils return Monday 19th April
HALF TERM 31st May – 4th June
End of term **3.30 pm** Friday 9th July

Autumn Term 2010

Pupils return Monday 6th September
HALF TERM 18th – 29th October
End of term **12.45 pm** Friday 10th December

PTA AGM,
Morley House 7:00pm

The PTA extend a warm invitation to all parents. The AGM will be held at Morley House, 7 King Henry's Road, at 7:00pm on Thursday 1st October 2009. They would like, particularly, to welcome new parents, and to meet them during the wine and refreshments which follow the AGM.

Dean Giles, Chair – LOGS PTA

The next PTA meeting will be held on Monday 9th November, at the Southdown Club (off Southover High Street) at 7:00pm. All parents will be warmly welcomed.

Please note

We regret the golf tournament is cancelled and will be rescheduled for Spring Term 2010.

Visit from Head of Sixth Form at Christ's Hospital School

On Wednesday 9th September 2009, Ian Stannard, a renowned author and expert on UCAS applications gave a presentation to all the Year 13 students in the newly operational Sixth Form building. Ian had kindly agreed to give our students the benefit of his experience in order to help them succeed with their chosen university applications. The presentation and Q & A session lasted over 2 hours and the feedback received from the students was that it was extremely enlightening and helpful. Ian also enjoyed the afternoon and said how welcoming everyone at LOGS had been. He is hoping to return to work with Year 12 in the near future.



Lewes Pound Design

The School is very proud that Zoe Vernon's Lewes Pound design, which features an image of Keere Street, was selected by the Lewes Pound Group, to feature on the new Lewes one pound design.

At the launch Zoe was presented with her prize knowing that her note will be circulating throughout Lewes and becoming a collector's item.



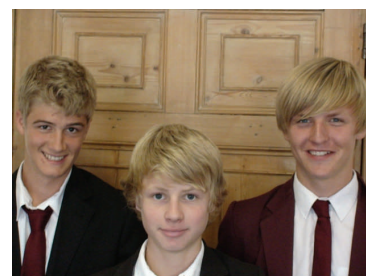
Sport News

I must congratulate three pupils: Ben Griggs, James Fuller, and Harvey Waller.

Ben and Harvey have both been selected to represent the South East region in Tier 1 competitions and to attend a 3 day high performance camp undergoing training by England Hockey coaches, in preparation for consideration for the England U16 National squad.

James Fuller gained his hockey skills at Lewes Hockey Club and currently plays for the men's 4ths. He has progressed into the county set up and has represented Sussex at hockey for the last three years. He has also been a regular member of the prestigious invitational side the 'Valkans', playing other international 11s and is representing this side again in October in Barcelona.

It would be nice to see these students participating at the 2012 Olympics!



Key Dates for Autumn & Spring



Tuesday September 22nd	Junior School Open Morning
Thursday October 1st	Senior School Open Morning
Thursday October 1st 7:00pm	PTA AGM
Thursday October 8th 7:00 pm	Senior School New Parents Evening
Thursday November 5th	School Closes early 3:00 pm
Thursday November 12th 7:00pm	Year 9 Parents Evening
Tuesday November 17th 7:00 pm	Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening
Wednesday November 25th 7:30pm	Information Evening for Yr 5 & 6
Saturday December 5th	Christmas Fair Venue Morley House
Thursday December 10th	Senior School & Years 5 & 6 Carol Service
<u>2010</u>	
Tuesday January 12th	Junior School Open Morning
Tuesday January 12th 7.00pm	Year 11 Parents Evening
Tuesday January 19th 7:00pm	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday January 21st	Senior School Open Morning
Thursday February 4th 7.00pm	Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday February 10th 7:00 pm	Year 9 Options Meeting
Tuesday February 23rd 7:00pm	Year 7 Parents Meeting
Friday March 5th 7:30pm	PTA Quiz Night
Thursday March 11th 7.00pm	Year 10 Parents Evening
Wednesday 17th March 7:00pm	Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening



WHOLE SCHOOL TRANSPORT YEARS RECEPTION -13

If you wish to use this service on an 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 £5.00.

PUPIL ABSENCE – SENIOR SCHOOL

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

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.

REMINDER

If your child feels ill during the school day the procedure is as follows:

- They see their Head of Year (or if unavailable, another Head of Year, Mrs Prior, Mrs Drunis or Mr Blewitt.)
- The member of staff will assess the severity and if they agree they should go home they will endorse the Homework Diary and send the pupil to the office to phone home.

Please note: The pupil should not phone home themselves.

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