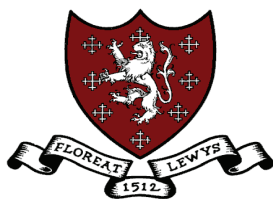


September 2008

Autumn Term

Newsletter



Lewes Old Grammar School

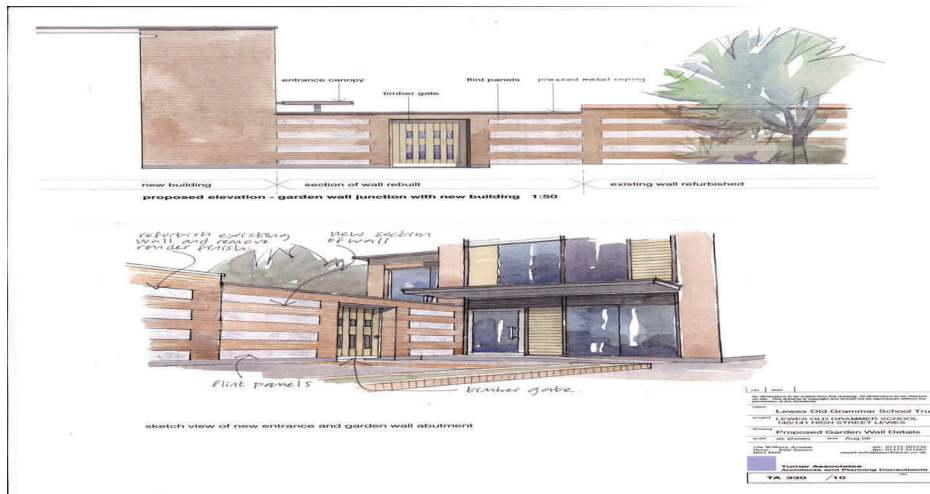
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Dear Parents,

LOGS opened its doors some two weeks ago with a little over 400 pupils on roll and with the school term now fully underway this seemed an ideal opportunity to put pen to paper and update you with developments. At the Senior School we have refurbished the Modern Languages department and converted the old library into a much needed fourth laboratory.

The library has been relocated to Tyne House whilst planning deliberations over our new building continue. Our initial planning application was turned down, at the eleventh hour, because of concerns that the proposed site had already been overdeveloped and that the footprint of the building was too big. We have submitted a new scaled down application which we hope will meet the planners concerns and are optimistic that we will be granted planning permission in the next few days. This hiccup has delayed the development and work will not now begin until the spring but should be completed for September 2009. Although this is a year later than originally intended. I am certain that once built it will be a major asset to the school.



The programme of work at Morley House focused on the installation of new catering facilities along with the extension of a classroom to meet growing demand for places. In addition the outside areas are currently being enhanced with this work due to be completed by half term. We are committed to maximising the use of outside space to provide more areas for play. An environmental garden is also being planned.

The public examination results were in line with expectations. At A Level the percentage of A+B grades rose again to a new record in excess of 70%. There were a host of excellent results and, although it might seem wrong to single out individuals, the achievements of Bonnie Appleton who secured her place at Balliol College, Oxford, with 4 A grades and a B; Stewart Forshaw with 4 A grades earned a scholarship to Warwick, and Helen Ramsey who completed her studies with us, has left to go to Durham with 5 A grades and 2 Bs, are all worth special mention.

At GCSE the pass rate at C grade or above was a little down on previous years at 91% but the percentage of top grades rose well above national trends. Nearly half the cohort achieved a majority of their results at either A* or A with Helen Lawless leading the way with 13 A* or As, closely followed by Callum Hubbard and Hattie Lowden with 12 each. You will know that I do not see excellent qualifications as the sole means of judging the quality of our school. I appreciate that many of you chose LOGS over other schools because you didn't want your children to attend simply an examination factory. LOGS is committed to providing a good all round education and these results confirm that this can be achieved without sacrificing good grades.

Contained within this newsletter is a calendar of forthcoming events. I look forward to seeing you soon at either the Harvest festival, a parents evening or the PTA AGM, which will be held at Morley House.

Yours sincerely,

R Blewitt

Lewes's Hamilton!

Year 7 pupil and kart racer AJ Morris recently visited the Honda Formula One factory near Silverstone, Northamptonshire as part of a prize he won for winning a regional karting championship.

AJ was given a tour of Honda's impressive facility, which employs over 800 people and costs over £150m each year to run, and saw how Jenson Button's racing car is designed and built using the latest construction techniques and materials.

Modern racing cars are largely built using carbon fibre and AJ was given the opportunity to see how this space-age material is actually made, which provides enormous strength; is incredibly light but is inevitably extremely expensive. For example, each steering wheel costs over £30,000 to make!

Back in the real world, AJ has just started to compete in a new national karting championship for drivers aged 12-16 and completed his first race on his twelfth birthday in April as the youngest entrant. He qualified fourth – the fastest new driver – then suffered a technical problem which dropped him to the back of the grid and drove in a determined fashion to eventually finish tenth out of twenty drivers.



TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2008

HALF TERM 20th—31st October
End of term 12:45 pm Friday 12th December

Spring Term 2009

Pupils return Tuesday 6th January
HALF TERM 16th—20th February
End of term 3:30 pm Friday 27th March

Summer Term 2009

Pupils return Monday 20th April
HALF TERM 25th—29th May
End of term 3.30 pm Friday 10th July

Autumn Term 2009

Pupils return Monday 7th September
HALF TERM 19th—30th October
End of term 12:45 pm Friday 11th December



REMINDER

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

2008 International AIDS conference

This was my first AIDS conference and there were over 23 thousand people there and it was in Mexico City. I was asked to be a junior key correspondent (KC) with HDN (Health and Development Networks). A Key correspondent is a journalist for an organisation. There were only five of us being Junior KC working there and we had to interview people, write documents, and speak in small sessions. In one session we had to speak with Mary Robinson. We wrote an article at the end of the conference about what happened and what we would do when we got back home. So I decided that I would also write this article for the school news letter.

I learned a lot at the conference but the main thing I learned was that there are a lot of people trying to stop HIV and AIDS from spreading in lots of different ways. Some of these people are HDN, UNAIDS, DFID and Care. HIV can spread in many different ways such as drugs, sex, and mother to child transmission. One of the ways people are trying to stop HIV from spreading is by making a gel that can protect you. But they haven't been able to make it yet because people are not sure how to create it or if it will work. In the mean time there are condoms for women and men to stop you getting HIV through sex.

33 million people around the world are living with HIV and 2 million of these are children. 90 % of children living with HIV are in Sub Saharan Africa where 12 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. HIV can spread in many ways such as drugs, and mother to child transmission. The most important things people need to know are that sometimes people living with HIV get treated badly



For example when people find out that their friend has HIV or AIDS they treat them differently. This is called stigma where people think that you are different and won't be near you because they are scared you are contagious. HIV cannot pass through daily communication. People with HIV are not different they need people to care. So don't insult somebody with AIDS. If I had HIV I would be worried about dying young and never seeing my best friends and family again. But I would mostly be worried about being excluded from the rest of my friends and being treated differently to others like in the hospital the doctors would probably wear gloves unlike they would for the other patients. I would also be nervous about telling my friends in case they treated me differently.

I interviewed many people at the conference two of these people were Michel Sidibe (see picture below) and Peter Bell. Michel is the deputy head of UNAIDS and Peter is the ex president of CARE International, he is now the co-chair of JLICA (Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS) and my mum (Louise Robinson) knew him when she was pregnant with me. JLICA is working with children researching how to prevent HIV in children and how to care for children with AIDS. I asked them many questions such as what have you done so far at the conference, how are you helping with AIDS and what will you do differently in the next 2 years time before the next conference.



I thought that there should be more children at the conference seeing as there was only 5 of us. They should be doing speeches and being key correspondents. There should have been more kids with AIDS at the conference because that would probably get the message to the world that we need to stop AIDS before it gets any worse. I think they should also let children be volunteers at the conferences in the future so they can see what it is like and what people are trying to do to help people with AIDS.

If somebody else was thinking about helping at conferences in the future I would tell them to do it because it is fun to be there and to interview the people who are talking in the sessions. I learned a lot about AIDS, like it has been an on going problem for 25 years, most of the problem is in Africa and ASIA and 90 percent of children don't get the medication and care they need. For me this has been a great opportunity to see what people are doing to try to stop AIDS from spreading and to be a part of the conference with HDN. I hope to be at the next conference in Vienna in two years time.

By Ned Helyar 8S LOGS

Sport news

Hockey

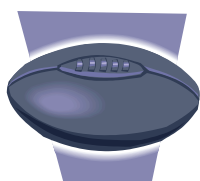
LOGS currently have William Brickell, George Collison, James Fuller, Ben Griggs, Sam & Max Murray, George Parnell, Avi Patel, William Pile, Maxwell Rhodes and Harvey Waller all attending Lions Training at Lewes Hockey Club. The Lions are the boys U16 Development team, with old boy Harry Heitman as their coach. Most are playing regularly in the league matches each week.

George Collison and James Fuller are both in the Sussex Hockey Junior development team members at U15 level. Ben Griggs is the same but U14.

James has also been undergoing trials at the Junior Regional Performance Centre at Tonbridge in Kent. He has got through 2 rounds of trials and on Sunday 14th September he attended trials to see whether he goes to the High Performance Academy Centre at Cannock Hockey Club where he will receive training to represent the South of England. We will not know whether he has been successful until next Tuesday but whatever the outcome it is a great honour to have had this opportunity.



Also congratulations to Emily Pile for getting in to the Sussex U16 County Hockey Squad.



Rugby

Ollie Canning heard from the RFU and has got through the trials and is now part of the U13 County Squad.

They will have 6 training sessions this season

Key Dates for Autumn & Spring Term



Thursday September 25th 7:00 pm	PTA AGM
Wednesday October 1st	Junior School Open Morning
Thursday October 2nd 7:00 pm	Senior School New Parents Evening
Wednesday October 8th	Senior School Open Morning
Wednesday November 5th	School Closes early 3:00 pm
Wednesday November 12th 7:00 pm	Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening
Tuesday November 18th 7:00 pm	Year 9 Parents Evening
Thursday November 27th 7.00 pm	Year 8 Parents Evening
Saturday December 6th	Christmas Fair Venue Morley House
Thursday December 11th	Senior School & Years 5 & 6 Carol Service
<u>2009</u>	
Wednesday January 14th 7.00pm	Year 11 Parents Evening
Tuesday January 20th	Senior School Open Morning
Thursday February 5th 7.00pm	Year 7 Parents Meeting
Wednesday February 11th 7:00 pm	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday February 26th 7:00 pm	Year 9 Options Meeting
Friday March 6th	PTA Quiz Night
Tuesday March 10th 7.00pm	Year 10 Parents Evening

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.

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

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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