

# the park

Autumn 2007

the Leighton Park School newsletter



**South Africa Tour:  
The Full Story**

**Bronze Eco  
Award**

**Temples and  
Floods in Sicily**

# Headlines



Dear Friends,

My first duty in this edition of **The Park** is to bid farewell to our Chairman of Governors, John Crosfield, who stands down at the end of 2008.

John has been Chairman for the past six years, during which time he has overseen the considerable growth of the school, and the development of valuable new facilities at Leighton Park, not least Oakview, the John Ounsted building, and the extension

to Field, making the House fully co-educational.

John has combined his work as Chairman with a very busy schedule of commitments as an engineer, and we have appreciated greatly his support and efforts on behalf of Leighton Park. Thank you, John.

Our new Chairman from January will be Paul High, also a Quaker. Paul has spent much of his career in education, most recently as Head of Prior's Court Preparatory School, and is a past chairman of the Boarding Schools Association. Paul is also a Trustee of Brummana High School, the Quaker school in the Lebanon. We warmly welcome Paul to his new role on the Board.

Meanwhile, the term has seen its usual array of activity and success for pupils across the age ranges, including the 1st XV reaching the final of the Super Six Competition for the fourth successive year (after winning it

for the last three!) **The Park** also contains an account of the remarkable Sixth Form Conference 'Preparing for Peace' in September, to which we were pleased to welcome Sixth Formers from several other Quaker schools.

In recent weeks, we have greatly missed Simon Williams who has been away seriously ill, but both he and we are hopeful that he will be back with us by the start of next term.

I hope many parents and families will have been able to come to the Christmas Concert on 5th December, and to our traditional Sunday Evening Christmas Meeting on the 9th. My family and colleagues join me in wishing you and yours a happy Christmas season, and peace in the new year.

**JOHN DUNSTON**  
Head

## Important Dates

Sun 13th Jan 7.30pm	Evening Meeting: Ros Taylor
Tues 22nd Jan	Year 9 trip to Imperial War Museum
Fri 25th Jan	Fryer Big Hush: Macmillan Cancer
Sat 2nd Feb	Sixth Form trip to Paris
Wed 6th Feb 7.15pm	Scholars' Concert
Fri 8th–Fri 15th Feb	French Exchange: Nantes party here
Sun 10th Feb 7.30pm	Evening Meeting: Sally Markwell
Wed 13th–Fri 15th Feb 7.30pm	Senior Production: <i>Under Milk Wood</i>
Tues 26th Feb–Tues 4th Mar	German Exchange: Hamburg party here
Wed 27th Feb 7.15pm	Junior Jazz Workshop
Thurs 28th Feb	History trip to Warwick Castle
Fri 29th Feb	Senior School Charity Disco
Sat 1st Mar	David Lean Commemoration Lunch at BAFTA Club
Wed 5th–Wed 12th Mar	French Exchange party in Nantes
Fri 7th Mar	Fryer Readathon/ Fancy Dress Day
Wed 12th Mar 7.15pm	Soloists' and Songwriters' Concert
Thurs 13th–Fri 14th Mar	Year 10 trip to WWI Battlefields
Sun 16th Mar 7.30pm	Evening Meeting: Roger Jefcoate
Tues 18th Mar 6.30pm	House Music Competition

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for up-to-date news

# Study Skills

**Elizabeth Thomas** (Deputy Head) writes: The curriculum imposes increasing demands on students to research independently, to organise a complex variety of notes, essays and other forms of written work and to revise effectively for a range of examination papers. Students need to adopt skills and techniques that will enable them to make more effective use of the time they spend studying. To support students in developing these essential skills the school has launched a major new initiative this term. In addition to the regular focus on study skills which forms part of the PSHE programme delivered by tutors, special workshop sessions have been provided for pupils in Years 7, 10 and L6th - all points where new skills and approaches become necessary.

For Year 7 a series of research skills lessons is being delivered with the help of the Librarian and the ILC. For Years 10 and L6th Linda Greetham Education Services provided half-day courses for all students. Parents of Year 10 students also attended a Parents' Forum. **Nigel Williams** (Director of Studies) explained that the strength of the courses comes from the involvement of tutors during the workshops so that they

can follow through the approaches with their tutees.

The courses proved so popular that Year 11 requested they be included in the initiative and the school put on extra sessions focused mainly on revision - an excellent way to prepare for the forthcoming trial exams.

**Lottie Dodwell** writes: The session gave me some new ideas about note-making. I've also adapted the way I work, such as no music while doing prep.

**Rob Holden** adds: The session gave me ideas about how to write a good essay, to highlight important facts and to make sure I give myself time to plan. I have also sorted out how to revise and make a timetable.

**Phil Dunster** comments: I have more techniques for revising and I can be more thorough in the lead-up to my GCSE exams.



We have learned with sadness of the death of **John Ounsted**, Headmaster of Leighton Park from 1948-70. John died at the age of 88 on Sunday 2nd December. John will always be remembered for his great intellect and scholarship, but we recall with particular affection his genuine interest in people, his approachability, his renowned sense of humour and his strong support for the school community. For all of these things and more, we will miss him.

Messages of condolence for his family can be sent to the school for forwarding. There will be a Memorial Meeting for Worship at the school at 3.00pm on Sunday 16th March 2008.

# Eco-Schools

**Sam Peat** writes: Leighton Park 'Save the Planet' group recently received the Bronze Award for its green efforts from the international environmental initiative Eco-Schools. To receive the award we had to meet a number of thought-provoking criteria including writing an environmental review and setting up a permanent notice-board. We are all looking forward to the challenges ahead as we begin to start working towards our Silver Award.

Some of the initiatives that the group have come up with include setting up a Fryer 'Save the Planet' activity: encouraging pupils and staff to save electricity, reduce water wastage, improve recycling and become more aware of environmental issues.

When the action team had completed its environmental review it shared its findings with the school community. The notice-board about the activities being undertaken is now on display in Oakview. Aneka Whybrow, the new Eco Resident, will be working with the group to help them achieve their next goal - the Silver Award.



## Staff News

**This term we welcomed:**

**Helen Taylor** Head of Biology  
**Simon Gifford** Head of English  
**Laura Wyatt** Artist in Residence  
**Ivan Russell-Swinnerton** Chemistry (covering maternity leave)  
**Yun Yun Tang** Mandarin  
**Sean Kenneally** Sports Resident  
**Jordana Swanborough** Sports Resident  
**Aneka Whybrow** Ecology and Environment Resident  
**Lisette Martin** Examinations Officer  
**Becky Walker** Marketing Assistant

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# Fryer News

## Mandarin

This term Year 7 have started learning Mandarin Chinese and, by all accounts, it has been a great hit. With the Beijing Olympics next year and the media regularly featuring the growing importance of this major world language, we are pleased that the Fryer pupils are enjoying the new



challenge. Sixth Formers have also already had the opportunity to sample the language as part of the Litebytes Enhancement programme for a couple of years.

**Jessica O'Hara** says: Mandarin is really good. Writing the characters is more difficult than learning other languages but speaking it is easier than others.

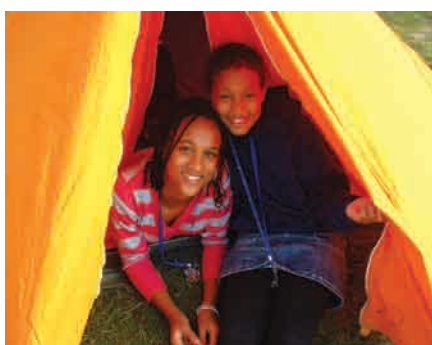
**Maya Wilson** and **Becky Wheeler** add: It's really good fun and it's not that hard with a good teacher like Yun Yun. Writing is difficult as you have to remember the characters and there are different accents too. It's important to learn Mandarin as one day we might visit China.

## Camp-out

Year 7 went for a camping weekend in the New Forest. **Maya Wilson** writes: It was great fun! We slept in tents of three. In the evening we sat around a big campfire, ate scones and mince pies, and played charades.

**Sonmar Ismeibou** says: I liked the camping because I like adventures. For **Honey Elias** the best bit was sharing a tent with her two best friends. **Lenny Wu** writes: The camping tent was really big and comfortable. I cooked a lot of food with my friend: we made noodles, sausages and burgers.

**Henry Puttock** writes: We did activities such as finding letters to make a sentence. At the end we took down our tents and packed everything away, and we got on the bus and went back to Leighton Park.



## Success in Sport

**Livvy Parcell** and **Abby Walters** write: Early in the autumn term we played against many teams in the hockey Plate Competition. We went on to reach the final against the John Madejski Academy.

Despite being tired from a game ten minutes before, we entered the final with enthusiasm and the ambition of winning. The game went into extra time with no goals scored. Extra time came and went. The score was still 0-0. It was declared a draw and so we share the Plate.



## Sports Festival

Leighton Park's Sports Festival once again provided a great backdrop to our Annual Open Morning. As ever, competition was intense but good-spirited with teams from local primary and prep schools taking part.

Fryer's team were joint winners, with St George's, Windsor Castle, of the U13 Football Tournament. In the U11s, Daneshill beat Oakley Junior School 5-1 in the final, with Whiteknights and St Neot's battling through to the semi-finals.

In the netball tournament, The Dolphin School beat Maltman's Green 6-0 in the final; with Daneshill and St Neot's reaching the semis. In the Plate competition, the White House beat St Piran's (their first time at the Sports Festival) 6-3 in the final, with Langley Manor and Manor Prep reaching the semis.

This year, as well as the trophies, the winners and runners-up also received a new specially designed gold or silver LP medal as a souvenir.



# Frohe Weihnachten!



Year 8 and 9 students of German got into the Christmas spirit with a visit to Aachen and its famous Christmas markets. By all accounts, there were many parcels in the coach on the journey home! The group stayed in an excellent Youth Centre and

their trip also took in the ancient cathedral and the Schatzkammer that houses some of the oldest crown jewels in Europe.

**Lucy Heath** and **Alex Cheng** write: Aachen Market was gorgeous and there were so

many beautiful hand-crafted gifts, chocolate and jewellery. It was a lovely feeling going round the market as if Christmas had really come. And, best of all, we were able to practise our German. Auf Wiedersehen!

# Sixth Form

## In Brief

### Maths Inspiration

On Thursday 1st November a group of Sixth Form mathematics students attended a lecture at the Concert Hall in Reading. The talk entitled 'Maths Inspiration', was hosted by well-known experts, including **Marcus du Sautoy** who gave the 2006 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures and **Rob Eastaway**, an independent lecturer and author whose books are based on everyday mathematics. Topics discussed included 'When Maths Meets Psychology', 'Boomerangs and Other Spinning Things' and 'The Beauty of Symmetry'. The afternoon provided all involved with an excellent opportunity to experience mathematics from a different angle.

### Physics Rocket

**Paul Bell** and **Felix Wong** had an uplifting time for their Work Experience week at the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, as part of the organisation's Apprentice Training Scheme.

Each day they took part in a different programme, culminating in a Rocket Launch competition which Paul and Felix's group won. Their rocket, bearing a raw egg, travelled the furthest distance – 92 metres without breaking the egg.



## Temples and Floods in Sicily



During October long leave a group of Sixth Form students went on a trip to Sicily to see the historical sites. **Lorna Wilson** writes: After seeing the sights of Palermo, we visited Segesta and its magnificent temple built in the 5th century BC. In the town of Selinute we saw two temples. Both had fallen down because of an earthquake but one had been rebuilt.

In Agrigento the temple that interested me most was the Temple of Zeus. Nothing but the steps was left as the rest of the stone had been taken away to build a harbour. The sleeping giant, carved in stone, and meant to protect the temple, was still there. Clearly he hadn't done a good job!



On the last night we woke up at 3am to the sound of shouting: 'Water! Water!' A lot of our rooms were flooded and we had to pack up and go up to the next floor. Getting out wasn't an option as the water on the ground floor would have been up to our waists. After being rescued, we returned safely to (drier) England. Sicily was a fantastic trip.



## Shakespeare, Sequoias and Sausage Rolls

This term saw the inaugural meeting of the Leighton Park English Society, writes **Simon Gifford**.

Sixth Formers studying English Literature were invited to attend with their teachers for an evening of readings, anecdotes and literary exploration. Staff and students alike brought along a poem, a novel, a short story or a personal composition on the evening's theme of 'Inspiration'.

Given free rein, no one quite knew what to expect and that was the joy of the evening. Amid a miscellany of periods, genres and styles, personal stories of triumphs and despair, the thread intertwining was the personal commitment behind each offering. No one expected Joe Jackson lyrics, an impromptu dramatic recitation of Shelley's *Ozymandius*, or photographs of Californian redwoods. Here, literature was allowed to breathe.

And the sausage rolls weren't bad either...

# Our Quaker Testimony

**Gemma Todd** writes about the Quaker Peace Conference: Quakers have testimonies in truth, integrity, simplicity, peace, equality and sustainability. These aspects of Quakerism are important in life and laid the foundation for the 'Preparing for Peace' Conference, which took place at Leighton Park on Wednesday 16th September 2007. The conference brought together students from around the UK as well as from local schools.

The main topic at the conference was war: speakers talked of the effects of war and suggested alternative solutions. **John Dunston** set the mood in his introduction by stating that 'Preparing for Peace' challenges the whole mindset of humanity. The keynote speaker was **Brian Walker** who reflected on twenty-first century war. His words created a stimulating speech on war causalities and enslavement, reinforcing his point that war doesn't and cannot work.

We then split into discussion groups. The issues of the Vietnamese War and the civil war in



Rwanda were examined. The groups talked about the effects of the American involvement in Vietnam. They also discussed how the Rwandan massacre could have been prevented. The conference broadened everybody's view on war as key facts were mentioned throughout the day, highlighting the problems war imposes on a country, its citizens and the environment.

## Focus on Quakerism

Community was the key to our Quaker Schools' Week, with the school welcoming staff and students from other schools, as well as speakers and parents, to join in a range of events. Staff from LP and other Quaker schools attended a day on 'Teaching in a Quaker School'.

In response to parents' requests to find out more about the faith in which the school is rooted, the PTA hosted a Parents' Forum. There were talks by **John Dunston** and **Paul High** (Chair of Governors Elect), and ministry by the Head and Deputy boys and girls. **Jack Stubbs'** comments, in particular, with his perspective of his home in Belfast, were particularly powerful.

**Jill Wallace**, parent and PTA member writes: What had the greatest impact

on me, was seeing the Head Boy, Girl and their deputies speaking eloquently in front of everyone, explaining what the Quaker faith meant to them as individuals at the school. It was so obviously their own personal view, not one gleaned from a textbook. It had been thought about carefully, with mature consideration. It certainly made me even more secure in the knowledge that I had made the right decision in sending my child to Leighton Park.

The week ended with a powerful Collect 'Why Quakers are Pacifists' by **Paul Kingston** from Reading Meeting which provided much food for thought. There were also workshops led by **Anna Liddell** from CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament).

## Amnesty International

**Ellen Green** writes: This term the LP Amnesty International group formed after a collect by the representative from Reading University. So far we have had a meeting with a man named Benny Wenda, who was persecuted for campaigning peacefully for the independence of West Papua. We have also held a petition and a letter-writing session aiming to free Filep Karma and Yusak Package, who are still imprisoned in West Papua for similar reasons. These men are being deprived of their human rights, and our letters and petitions give them some hope, as well as a chance of freedom. More members are welcome. Any meetings we have will be well publicised so feel free to come along!

To find out more about the campaign, visit [www.freewestpapua.org](http://www.freewestpapua.org)

# Arts

## Christmas Card



The winner of our 2007 Christmas Card Competition is **Angus Lai** (Year 11). His design features a beautiful watercolour drawing of Peckover in the snow, inspired by his time spent with Laura, our resident artist. Many congratulations to Angus and the runners-up **Lucy Heath** (Year 9), **Jessica O'Hara** (Year 7), **Alex Cheng** (Year 8), **Archie Dickens** (Year 9).

## Music Notes



## Book News



Top children's author Michelle Paver held an audience of children spellbound as she talked about her new book, *Outcast*, and her experiences during research for her bestselling books. The pupils, aged 11-13, from Leighton Park and a number of local schools hung on to every word and queued to have books and posters signed at the end.

**Martha Rigby** says: As a child Michelle loved *The Stone Age* and wolves. She was determined to live like a Stone Ager, so she got rid of her bed and slept on the floor. She made Stone-Age medicines and tried them out on her sister.

### Berkshire Book Award

**Chris Routh** (Librarian) writes: In October, the launch of this year's Berkshire Book Award took place at Leighton Park for the third year running. The event was attended by around 250 students from local secondary schools, including the members of LP's Book Club, who enjoyed seeing last year's winner, Hal Iggulden, receive his award for *The Dangerous Book for Boys*.

**Jessica O'Hara** and **Tom Rojas** each won a copy of Hal's latest book, for submitting two of the most original questions for Hal's interview.

### War Horse

In November, a group of Year 8 and Year 9 students attended a performance of the critically acclaimed adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's book *War Horse* at the National Theatre. The production was particularly interesting because of its use of life-size puppets and many of the students found the play very moving, as it focuses on the experiences of young soldiers and their horses during World War I.

**Rosemary Scales** (Director of Music) writes: There has been a wealth of wonderful music this term, with five concerts since long leave alone! Thanks must go to everybody involved in these events for all their incredible hard work.

### Tips from the Top

Musical inspiration came from two student seminars this term. 'Careers in Music' was led by **David Hentschel**, one of the most experienced record producers in the world who has worked with Genesis, George Harrison, David Bowie and many others. **Remy Archer** says: It was insightful to receive tips from someone who knew what he was talking about.

The Year 9s enjoyed a seminar with **Matt Dunkley**, a well-established film composer and orchestrator (*Moulin Rouge*, *Love Actually*, *Ray*). Matt shared a stunning presentation of famous film music and screen displays illustrating many of the techniques used by professionals. **Marle Cilliers** says: I found I learned a lot and was extremely inspired by some of Matt's work.



## Liquid Silk CD

Liquid Silk, Leighton Park's senior jazz ensemble, has released its first CD, called 'Pushing Air'. This exciting collection features some classic jazz combined with tracks composed by the young musicians themselves. Priced £7, the CD is available from the school office.

Liquid Silk is made up of **Jack Stubbs** (Saxophone), **Matt Dunston** (Piano), **Leo Ijebor** (Bass) and **Ed Watson** (Drums), with new members **Phil Dunster**, **Andrew Dyson** and **Mary Triddon**.

Jazz flourishes for all age groups at Leighton Park under the direction of jazz supremo and founder of the Berkshire Youth Jazz Orchestra, **Patrick Kelly**, supported by Leighton Park's Director of Music, **Rosemary Scales**. From the young Jazz Kittens, the just-a-little-older Jazz Cats to the Black Jacks Quartet, The Dixieland Band and Liquid Silk, the skills of improvisation and the joy of playing as a group are obvious to any audience.

# Sport South Africa Tour



We left LP for the 'Rainbow Nation' on 20th August with great excitement and anticipation, writes **Mark Simmons**, Head of PE and Games.

On our first morning in Cape Town the weather was good enough for a trip up Table Mountain before our first matches and rugby victory (35-0). At Heideveld High School our teams ran coaching clinics in rugby and netball before an eye-opening tour of the township areas. We spent a magnificent day travelling to Cape Point and the Cape Peninsula and, accompanied by an ex-prisoner, we also visited the notorious Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years in prison.

After playing three matches, the rugby team remained unbeaten. Before leaving for Johannesburg we returned to Heideveld High School to make a presentation of kit and equipment. It was a very moving experience for all. On our arrival in Johannesburg we spent the evening at Lesedi Cultural Village learning about the history of the tribes, tribal dancing and sampling a 'Nyama Choma', a great African feast. Despite valiant efforts, in difficult playing conditions at times,

the rugby team did not win either of their matches in Johannesburg but we were so proud of the way the team played their hearts out. I would like to thank all the players and PE staff for all their hard work both before and during the tour.

From Johannesburg we also enjoyed several memorable game drives and a bush braai with a large campfire and our rangers acting as guards! There was also the chance to sample game meats at our final group meal at the Carnivore Restaurant before departing for home after a very busy and memorable tour.



**Hannah Dodds** (Captain) and **Mary Triddon** (Vice Captain) write: The 1st hockey and rugby teams ventured to the depths of South Africa and little did we know the outcome was going

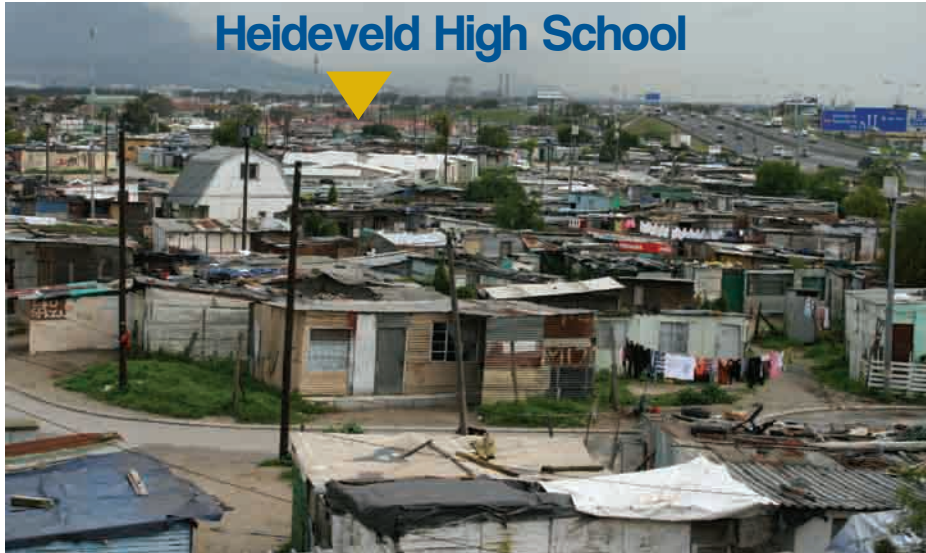
to be as brilliant as it was! From the thrills of Table Mountain and the early morning starts on safari, to the historical value of Robben Island and the surreal ambience of the townships, the experience was an epic one which pupils and staff will never forget. In our first match in Cape Town we drew 2-2. The second match we lost 0-1, although the goal was debatable. We won all of our next matches: 0-5, 0-1, 0-4, 0-5. Success was partly due to the boys' team who cheered and chanted in the right places. All of the tourists, from Year 10 to Upper Sixth were brought closer, both as team mates and as friendships flourished. This created a wonderful atmosphere leading to great success on the pitch. It was an incredible tour that would not have been made possible without the



determination and dedication of all those who supported and organised it. THANK YOU!

**Izzy Dodds** adds: Although this was primarily a sports tour, I believe time spent in a township school was one of the most influential parts. We played and became friends with the children there and afterwards toured the

township to see where they lived. Row upon row of corrugated shacks; it really made you wonder how the children we had just met could be so happy. At Leighton Park we have seven netball courts, maybe with a bit of moss: they had one, half covered with a sort of green swamp. It made me realise how lucky we are.



Heideveld High School

## A Vote of Thanks

**Nicky Williams** (PE teacher) writes: The experience of visiting the southern hemisphere and spending time experiencing another culture is something I will never forget. However, what made the greatest impression on me was the warmth, enthusiasm, friendly and supportive attitude of the girls' hockey team and the staff travelling with us. I returned home so proud of what the girls had

achieved. They trained hard before we left and grew in confidence as the tour progressed, producing the highest standard of play against Pirates Sports Club, Johannesburg. I would like to thank **Mark Simmons** for organising this great adventure, **Hannah Dodds** and her team, and also **Sue Wright and Julie Liebert** who all contributed so much to the success of the girls' hockey squad.

## Hockey at Home

The hockey teams have had a fantastic term playing many full fixtures and entering all the outdoor and indoor County hockey tournaments. The U13 mini-hockey team drew in the final of the Reading Schools Mini-hockey League with The John Madejski Academy. The U14s won two matches against The Abbey and LVS, losing to Kendrick 0-3. However, the team beat Kendrick in the U14 County Tournament on their way to the quarter finals.

The U15s beat Bulmershe 3-0 and lost to Kennet 0-3. Both the U16s and U18s are unbeaten this term. The U16s drew 2-2 with Wellington College and beat St Gabriel's 2-0. The U18s, captained by **Hannah Dodds**,

have had a great term drawing 1-1 with Wellington College and beating Reading Blue Coat twice, 8-0 and 4-0. They also beat Bearwood and Pangbourne.

## House Rugby

After the senior and junior 7s competitions the House Cup has finished in a three-way tie between Field, Grove and School! Field won the senior competition convincingly and Grove juniors were equally impressive. Each of these houses came third in the other competitions and School were runners-up in both.

## Individual Achievements

**Samantha Kanza** has been selected to row in the Silver Skiff Rowing Regatta in Turin in November, representing the Upper Thames Rowing Club.

**Joe Groom** plays in the Bucks U20 county rugby squad and has recently been selected for Marlow RFC 1st XV - a rare achievement for players still at school.

**Theo Masters-Waage** has been involved in a number of Berkshire U14 rugby trials this term and has been selected for the team squad.

**Phil Dunster** has been a county rugby squad member for the last two years and has played for the Berkshire U16 squad this term.

**Amy Simmons** has recently been selected to play in the national league for Reading Hockey Club Ladies 1st XI. Amy made her league debut against Birmingham University and scored a goal.

**Stephen Bradbury** (14) has been selected for a national élite training squad in cycling. Having gained considerable success in national league competitions at weekends, he has been identified as a potential Olympic athlete and attends weekly training sessions at Calshot, near Southampton.

**Jake Elias** has had a successful summer in the Berkshire U13 cricket squad and has now been selected for the U14 squad for next summer.

**Hal Orchard**: Team Player of the year and highest batting average for Cookham Dean Cricket Club.

**Kristian Callaghan** is Junior British Pistol Shooting Champion 2007 (10m) and he trains at the Centurion Club.

# Politicians in the Making

**Ken Lovesy** writes: For the first time in the history of our unique LP event, the JBH Speech Competition, there has been a tie: judge, Ian House, found it impossible to separate his top two speakers. And both the winners are from the GCSE side of the school, **Naomi Alderson** from Year 10 and **Sam Peat** from Year 11.

The evening started with **Sam Parker** in typically rambunctious form arguing for genetic engineering ('Splice yourself a better you') and swatting aside all the seven minutes' worth of

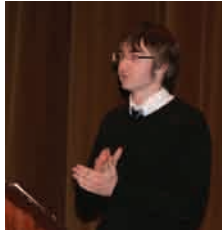
heckles with his rapier wit and his trademark TV antenna.

**Gabriel Gavigan** was next, arguing against our 'vanilla' politics and for involvement in pressure groups. The heckling here was especially vigorous, especially from the A level history and politics students.

Next **Sam Peat** argued on behalf of the European Union: 'For peace, prosperity and Poles'. Again the hecklers were superbly dealt with.

There followed **Naomi** arguing for 'The legalisation of brothels', a highly controversial topic presented with due seriousness and many detailed arguments; all hecklers (including Purna) were firmly, if courteously, put in their place.

Next up was the Junior JBH final in which two other Year 10s, **Josie Copeland** and **Tumi Carter**, fought it out on the vexed topics of abortion and our opinions of the USA, with **Josie** the eventual winner. All this in front of an audience of prospective hecklers from Years 9, 10 and 11.



## Microsoft Visit

Our first ICT GCSE trip of the year was to Microsoft, writes **David Veniar**. We heard some very interesting talks about Microsoft, robotics, Xbox and programming. We saw lots of new and recently created robots on a cleverly made PowerPoint presentation.

At lunch-time we sat with current Microsoft interns and asked them questions. We were then given a thorough tour of the Microsoft buildings. We even got to play with cool new gadgets.

At the end we heard one last talk on some new pieces of software from Microsoft. After this we were put into teams and given a quiz. Our team won!

The trip gave me an idea of a typical business and how Microsoft runs. I hope to have more trips as fun as this one was in the future.

Editor's note: The Park is printed on paper made from 100% recycled fibres sourced entirely from post-consumer waste.

Several of our students are interested in following IT-related careers, writes **Angela Rigby**, and I am sure their trip, with the chance to speak to such enthusiastic employees, will encourage them through the years of studying before they get their chance to start their own careers.



**LP senior production: 13th, 14th and 15th February at 7.30pm in the Main Hall**  
**Tickets £5 LP Staff and Students free**

A rare opportunity to see a fully staged production of Dylan Thomas' masterwork for voices. The Cast is working hard to capture the humour, pathos and magic of Llareggub - a small Welsh community brought vividly to life by the poet's words and his cornucopia of memorable characters.

## Fireworks Go With a Bang

**Lorna Cummings**, Chair of the PTA, writes: This autumn saw the start of an exciting new tradition at Leighton Park. On an evening of clear skies and mild temperatures, over 450 of us enjoyed a spectacular display. The fireworks, presented by Supreme Fireworks, were so good that there were moments of spontaneous applause throughout.

The traditional outdoor food, provided in the ticket price, was excellent. Mulled wine and mulled cranberry juice offered a spicy alternative to the usual drinks on offer. Fun fluorescent bands added to the festivities.

Make sure you order your tickets early for next year's show as it is one not to be missed!

Leighton Park PTA  
Invites you to the  
**Summer Ball**  
Saturday 7th June 2008  
Tickets on sale in January: buy tickets before 31st January for an early-booking discount.