

# the park

Spring 2009

the Leighton Park School newsletter



**West Side Story  
World Book Day  
Fun in the Snow**

# Headlines



Dear Friends,

Stunning views of the snow-clad Park are only a memory. Now daffodils cheer us as we move through busy days. School life is linked inextricably to the seasons: spring always contains the emergence of signs that preparation, patience, vision and aspiration produce the fruits of success. Much has been achieved and other good things will come to fruition in the final term.

As usual a huge amount has been achieved in a short time. Older pupils were challenged, in the dark days of January, by trials and modules and the focus on coursework intensified as the

term progressed. Assessment is, thankfully, only one aspect of school life and many valuable learning experiences have been provided both inside and outside of the classroom. Teachers at Leighton Park have always been generous with their time and creative in their approach; demonstrated by the many trips - at home and abroad, in term time and holiday - this year. Highlights of some appear in the following pages.

Collect and Meeting for Worship are central to the school's sense of self and we have been challenged and inspired by presentations and ministry on a range of topics including; Oscar Wilde; perception and reality; the meaning of 'profound'; conquering Everest; Darwin's Tree of Life and thinking outside the box about global warming. In a different way the community was brought together by two spectacular events - the annual House Music Competition and the magnificent performances of West Side Story which engaged the whole school, showcasing the talent and commitment that is a hallmark of Leighton Park. Our attention was rightly drawn to the play's central message of the value of peaceful conflict resolution and the achievement of all those involved clearly demonstrated how the school

builds self-belief and develops co-operation.

Opportunities for pupils to 'let their lives speak' are many and this term we have seen the continuation of House charity events with funds raised for a range of good causes. Whole school initiatives raised money too and we all did something funny for money for Red Nose Day whilst still remembering why such fundraising events are so important. The Save the Planet group challenged us to address sustainability in our own operation resulting in changes to packed lunches. Eco-Fryer began work on renovating the orchard and building an allotment.

It has been a huge privilege and pleasure to be given the responsibility of leading the school community this term and I am grateful to all who have been so supportive and encouraging.

As the end of this term draws near I look forward to the many good things to come in the summer term and wish you all a Happy Easter and good holidays.

**Elizabeth Thomas**  
Acting Head

## Important Dates

Mon 20th April  
23rd - 30th April  
Sat 25th April 11am  
Mon 27th April 6.15pm  
2nd - 4th May  
Wed 6th May 7.15pm  
Sun 10th May 7.30pm  
Wed 13th May 7.15pm  
Fri 15th May  
22nd - 31st May 6.00pm  
Sat 6th June  
Sun 7th June  
15th - 19th June  
Sat 20th June  
Tues 23rd June

Thurs 25th June  
Fri 26th June  
Sat 27th June  
Fri 3rd July

Inset day  
German Exchange visit  
Leighton Park General Meeting  
Facing History: Hamilton Hay  
Exeat weekend  
Soloists' Concert  
Sunday Evening Meeting  
Ensembles Concert  
U6 Leavers Collect, tea and dinner  
Long Leave  
PTA Summer Ball  
Sunday Evening Meeting: Juliet Straw  
Year 10 Work Experience Week  
Fryer Festival  
Athletics: Reading Schools' Town Championships  
Year 7 ICT trip to Legoland, Windsor  
Sixth Form Barbeque  
Music for a Summer's Evening  
Term Ends

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for up-to-date news

# The ReachOut Community Learning Project

The ReachOut Community Learning Project is now up and running, and we are very pleased to have had the opportunity to welcome two such interesting speakers at the Open Forum events (Manoj Barot on Racism in the police force in October 2008, and most recently Rob Wilson MP). I would like to really encourage parents, friends and Old Leightonians to look out for forthcoming Community Learning Project events. The project is a great opportunity for all connected with LP to further their understanding of Quaker principles and ideas, and to embrace the themes of ReachOut; Knowledge, Justice, Good Causes and Environment. Look in the calendar for forthcoming events- we hope to see you there! All events are free and members of the general public are welcome at the autumn and spring events.

**Pippa Bleach**

## PTA Summer Ball 6th June, 2009

Once again we hope to raise money for Ripple Africa. Last year we raised over £7000 and the money has made a significant difference to this charity and its work in Malawi. This year, with the economic downturn, they are having a very difficult time to raise funds for their worthwhile projects.

We hope you can join us for an evening with good music, food and fun! Last year we had wonderful feedback from our first ever ball - we hope to make this year as enjoyable!



## Taster Success

During January Leighton Park ran a series of taster days for pupils who have been offered a place at the school. The days went well with great feedback from the Year 6 pupils attending.



**Elizabeth Thomas**, Acting Head, sends out a special thank you to all the current Year 7 and 8 pupils that helped on the day, we know that the visitors found you all friendly and helpful and a great credit to Leighton Park.

The Taster Days are a way for the pupils to experience what it is really like to be at the school, meet new friends and get over some of the anxieties they may have about starting at a new school, we are sure that many of you still remember that feeling!



**Roger Aylward**, Head of Fryer House, said, 'We find that on these days the children forge friendships both with their future class mates and the current Year 7 pupils making the transition to Leighton Park exciting and positive.'

**Alice Colborne** who attended on the 16th January said, 'The Leighton Park Taster day was amazing; in fact it was even better than amazing, it was the best school day of my life and I can't wait to come to the school in September!'

## Red Nose Day

**COMIC RELIEF**



### LAST CHANCE

to buy tickets for the summer ball! We have frozen the price of tickets at £65. (Anyone who purchased after January will receive a refund for the extra amount paid.)  
**LAST CHANCE** to buy tickets will be **April 24th**.  
 The application form can be found on the LP website (The Community - PTA).

# FryerNews

## A Trip to Warwick Castle



On Thursday 26th February Year 7 took their annual History trip to Warwick Castle. During the day the students are able to explore the castle, watch a hawk display, look at

the dungeons and learn about battles and life in a castle.

**Leo Butler** writes 'It was a great day, there were dingy dungeons, Calamity Heights, even a ghost tower!...We tried to pull a sword out of a stone but just ended up on our backs'.

**Simon Terry** writes 'I had a great day at Warwick Castle and I particularly liked the Ramparts with the cool staircases and fantastic views. I also enjoyed the "Kingmaker" bit with the model people showing how battle would be prepared'.



## Hush!!!

On 23rd January silence reigned, albeit for half an hour, in Fryer House, as the usual noise at lunch break was stilled to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Research.

"Hush" has been running since September 2000 in Fryer House in order to raise money and awareness for this amazing charity. It is inspiring how Leighton Park pupils and their families throw themselves into raising money for charity.

The half hour silence allows the pupils to think about the suffering of victims and their families and to reflect on the issues around this terrible disease. A big thank you goes out to all those involved and who raised money for the event.



## Snow place like Leighton Park

On 2nd February you might remember we had a bit of snow!! We were proud to be one of only a handful of schools in Berkshire that managed to stay open. Here is what our Fryer students had to say about their school snow day.

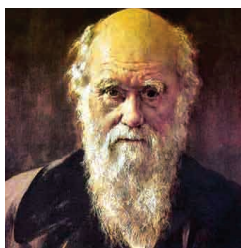
"Today was a brilliant day because it snowed. It was good fun, we made a snowman and we had a snowball fight. I really enjoyed this day. I would love to do it tomorrow too".

"After school finished all the boarders came and had a snowball fight. It was fun and the seniors made a huge snowball in the main entrance of Fryer."



"It was so cold but fresh. The snow was freezing as it went down your top. Snowball fights were fun, Pauline's dogs came out and they got covered in snow too."

## Happy Birthday Charles Darwin



February was an exciting month in the Biology department: it was the 200th anniversary of the birth of

Charles Darwin. This was marked by the eating of lots of cake (any excuse) and 7D's performance in Fryer Collect of the Life and Work of Charles Darwin. In this informative and amusing skit **Alexander Hitchins** played Darwin in the lead role and there was an inspired

performance from **Martin Dixon** as his irascible father.

For those of you who are interested there is an excellent exhibition running at London's Natural History Museum until April 18th. For further details see <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/whats-on/darwin/>

The genius of Charles Darwin will be further celebrated at Leighton Park by another of **Chris Routh's** spectacular displays in the library. Watch this space...

**Gemma Sims**

# Eco-Fryer



This term the Ecofryers have been busy planting chillis, peas and trees, and raising money to help polar bear research - the adopted animal voted for by Fryer pupils.

We have had many generous donations of tools and other items from parents and friends to help us with our allotment project, and would like to say a big thank you to all.

# Sixth Form

## AS Geography Fieldtrip to Exmoor and The Quantock Hills 13th - 16th March 2009

On Friday 13th March, 23 AS Geography students, together with **Caroline Kirby** and **Claire Reeves** set off from Reading train station on a residential fieldtrip to investigate river processes in the Quantock Hills, coastal processes at Porlock Bay in Exmoor National Park, population change in Taunton and also the analysis of the rural settlements of Exford and Dunster. When we arrived at the



field study centre in Nettlecombe on Friday afternoon we were astounded.... it looked like a smaller version of Hogwarts!!

Our four days of fun and hard work crammed us with geographical knowledge and skills in preparation for our AS examination this summer...

We all had an exhausting, but really fantastic trip!

By **Azrin Adnan** and **Ben Mayer**

## National Politics Conference

On 2nd March the Sixth Form Politics students went to City Temple, London to a National Politics Conference. **Nina Gillespie** and **Edward Ireland** were among those that went. This is what they had to say "We heard several MPs and politicians talking about their views and their parties' policies, as well as the state of the UK



Tony Benn

today. The conference was very good! Seeing the legend that is Tony Benn was phenomenal and his views on the state of the economy and civil liberties were inspiring. The conference was really interesting as instead of the most well known MPs there were many backbench MPs who did not just regurgitate party propaganda but discussed their own views and provided critical analysis of Parliament" **Artur Yemolayev** added "I found that the conference really helped to support what I have learnt in the class. Thanks for the experience!"

## European Youth Parliament

**Will Stevens** recently participated along with 8 other Sixth Formers at the Thames Valley round of the European Youth Parliament at St Hugh's College, Oxford. Will writes "I gave the lead speech for our team opposing the proposition that the EU should have further restrictions on the membership of the EU whilst **Lexy Burini** gave a clear and strong summarising speech supporting our team's opposition.

Throughout the day the team raised questions and quizzed other teams on a whole variety of issues from the provision of a central European health care system to the South American trading bloc. Although we did not get through to the next round the experience was very beneficial to our understanding of the European Union. We were pleased to have been recognised as the team that put the life and humour into the debate, a quality the judges said was one of the highlights of the day."

**Congratulations to the participants: Will Stevens, Lexy Burini, Phil Dusnter, Amber Wilson, Emily Stubbs, Gareth Rice-Jones, Ben Mayer and Esther Briault-Hutter.**



## Dead Bodies

On Thursday 5th February the Sixth Form biology, art and PE students visited Gunter Von Hagens' Body Worlds and the *Mirror of Time* exhibition at London's O2 Arena.

Despite the snow and ice we made it there in one piece and were certainly rewarded for our perseverance. The exhibition featured over 200 real human specimens that have been preserved by Von Hagens' patented plastination process. It was an amazing insight into the working, and failings, of the human body with a specific focus on health, wellbeing and the ageing process. The exhibits ranged from sections of diseased organs to complete human organ systems and the Mount Everest of anatomical models: a full sized giraffe. And the key to longevity? Quit smoking, eat healthily, exercise and apparently drinking the odd glass of red wine.

## Facing History Update

This term we have been very fortunate with a great list of guest speakers who have been welcomed to the Facing History Group (History, Politics and Law Society).

On 26th January Patrick Major gave an interesting presentation on the development of the cold war in East Berlin and the lead up to the Berlin Wall. On 23rd February we welcomed Robert Barnidge who gave us a unique insight into the workings of the United Nations and international law, and on 9th March Professor Alan Cromartie delved into the realms of 'the ethics of war'. The students proved enthusiastic participants and were complimented on the range and intelligence of the questions they put forward to the speakers. We look forward to next term's guest speakers - and welcome any students from year 11 to Sixth Form, Mondays, 6.15-7.15pm.

**Pippa Bleach**

# Seniors



## Save the Planet

Save the Planet have been planning a tree campaign for the summer term, hopefully giving all students the chance to become involved in planting trees around the grounds to augment the woodlands in our beautiful park, and have been doing some planting of their own.

Here they are pictured planting thirty Rowan, Wild Cherry and Silver Birch trees that have been donated to us kindly by the Woodland Trust.

## Imperial War Museum



In January Year 9 went to the Imperial War Museum, London. On arrival the students were able to look around the museum, including going into a trench which has been constructed as if it was a real trench. One student commented "There wasn't a very pleasant smell and the food didn't look too good. It was also dark and there was a motto saying 'keep to the trench in daylight' which the soldiers stuck to".

After lunch the students were given a talk by a Jewish lady about life as a Jew during the World War. They learnt a lot about what it was like being a Jew as she told them about a young girl who had been in Auschwitz. "It was horrible to see many pictures of dead naked bodies, but it made me wonder why this war happened and why the Jews were being killed in the first place. In my head I was thinking to myself and wondering what it would have been like if Germany had won the war. I probably wouldn't know all of the people I know".

## Philosophy



**Mitch Whitehead** engaged a wrapt audience from the Leighton Park community and visitors from further afield while delving into the fascinating world of the human mind.

After an introduction to the history of the brain, exploring philosophical theories and scientific discoveries, he tested the senses of brave (or should that be foolish) volunteers with live experiments. The evening was characterised by both its captivating insight and boundless good humour.

By **Sally Peace**.

## Senior Public Speaking

During the Spring Term a group of Year 11 students took part in the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking event in Thatcham. Due to their excellent efforts and enthusiasm they got through the first round - they were brilliant in spite of two late withdrawals due to illness. **Theo Masters- Waage** of Year 10 stepped in to help **Naomi Alderson** and **Lottie Dodwell**. The regional final was then postponed because of bad weather and unfortunately we couldn't attend the rearranged event because of the School senior production of 'West Side Story'.

Two Year 10 groups did very well in the Oxford Union's competition against largely very senior groups from Oxfordshire and Berkshire. (**George Pundek** and **Will Earle A'hern**; **Bertie Marks** and **Theo Masters-Waage**) Two Year 9s who were there as spectators made up a superb team of 'floating' debaters.

## West Side Story



Photos from West Side Story can be downloaded from the school website. Should you wish to receive a full copy of all photos please drop a CDROM into the marketing department with your name and tutor on it.

A DVD of the music from the show is also available for purchase via the Music department at a cost of £15. Please contact Rosemary Scales for more information.

# Arts

## Berkshire Book Award

Earlier this term, members of the Senior Book Club attended a special BBA event where Amanda Craig, The Times children's books critic, talked about her work and her views on the shortlist. Over 100 students from local secondary schools discussed the merits of the six shortlisted books before voting for their favourite title, which on this occasion turned out to be 'Blood Ties' by Sophie McKenzie.

We were therefore delighted to be offered the opportunity to hear Sophie McKenzie talk to LP's Years 8 and 9 about how she became a writer and introduce some of her books including 'Blood Ties' as well as her most recent book 'The One and Only'.

## Reading Battle of the Bands



A huge congratulations goes out to **Henry Colborne** in Year 9 who has won the 'Reading Battle of the Bands' with his band 'Cooper's Rage' during the Christmas break. The band was interviewed on Radio Berkshire and they have won some studio time and will be recording a demo CD as a result.

## National Youth Training Choir

**Naomi Dunston** has worked hard and been through some tough auditions during the winter term to gain herself a place in the National Youth Training Choir. This is a great achievement and we wish her every success - Well done Naomi.

# World Book Day Book Week



Every year the Book Week seems to get bigger and better. This year's programme included a visit by the very tall poet, Andrew Fusek Peters, who performed his poetry, juggled and played the didgeridoo for Year 9 and 10. He then led a writers' workshop for a smaller group, which focused on how to write a thriller.

Year 8 pupils, **Kit Aherne, Nicole Burns, Daniel Earl,** and **Bethany Foster** also tried their hand at writing, working together to create the third

chapter for one of the eight e-books being created by groups of local secondary schools during the week.

World Book Day started with a lively and very closely fought Quiz, involving three teams of Fryer students, which ended with only one point between each team. **Alex Angwin, Daniel Earl, Joss Lazenby** and **Alex Mann**, of the winning team representing Bournville, were presented with book tokens to spend in the World Book Day Book Shop.



Book Club members had already attended the official opening and preview of the Book Shop where they were all invited to select a book that they would like to be added to the school library. During the next two days pupils visited the book shop during English lessons, where they were able to browse or buy books using their World Book Day £1 book tokens. As before, the commission earned from book sales will be donated to Book Aid International, which provides books for libraries overseas.

## Bach Choir, St Matthew Passion

I was delighted when Leighton Park was again invited to contribute some female singers to the ripieno choir for a performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion with The Bach Choir, at the Royal Festival Hall, London on Sunday 8th March 2009. The Bach Choir is one of the finest independent choirs in the world and it aims to inspire singers and audiences with the magnificence, beauty and emotional power of choral music through performances and recordings. We were extremely privileged to have been invited to contribute to this highly prestigious event and it was an unforgettable



occasion for 8 of our senior girls. Many members of the Bach Choir commented on how much they liked the fresh, youthful sound the girls made.

From left to right:

**Helena Powers; Johanna Schepp; Millie Naylor; Fran Mead; Verity Groom; Ellen Green; Clea Heaton** and **Becky Pooley**

**Rosemary Scales**



*Jordan Gage and Josie Copeland*

# West Side Story

West Side Story is considered to be one of the finest examples of musical theatre. It also has the reputation of being one of the most difficult to stage and the score demands playing of the highest quality. However, the rewards of a successful production are great and we hope our recent performance will live long in the memory of any one who saw it. It was groundbreaking in its day and still has much to say that is relevant to a modern audience. Above all, it is about young people striving to survive prejudice and it is fitting that a cast of young people should attempt to interpret it.

The show demands talent in the three disciplines of acting, singing and dancing. The choreography is such an important element that we were very lucky to have Laura Routh on board. From the beginning, she assessed the strengths of our performers and constantly challenged them to do their best. Dance rehearsals were great fun but exhausting for some cast members who had never danced in their lives before. It was the same with the singing. The principal roles demand extraordinary range and are daunting because most people are familiar with the great songs such as "Maria", "Tonight" and

other classics. We were blessed with our principal actors who led the company with distinction. We are naturally biased but we have never before seen an amateur production so well acted.

The long dark nights of rehearsal in November and December yielded a show full of possibilities. One of the most memorable moments was when the cast heard the orchestra play for the first time. In that moment, we all realised that something quite special was about to happen.

The performances went extremely well and the feedback has been wonderful.

We want to thank all the cast, crew and orchestra who worked so hard. In theatre you have to treasure the "magic" moments because they occur infrequently. The whole rehearsal and performance period was a magical one for us.

## **Geraint and Rosemary**

# Sport

## LP make the Berkshire Elite Football Squad

To get into the Berkshire Elite squad is an amazing achievement, the standard of competition to make the squad grows each year and it is therefore a great credit to the hard work and dedication that these boys have achieved this goal.

Year 7 pupils **Oli Portch** and **Tiaan Coetzee** are new to the squad this year and will join Year 9 **Mitchell Gutteridge** who has been reselected for the squad.

Being part of the squad will develop their football on the pitch and confidence off the pitch. The players will be working with highly qualified coaching staff over the next six months. In July Oli and Tiaan will compete in the Valencia Cup, where they will have

the opportunity to play against youth teams from around the world. Mitchell will be attending a training camp in Seville during the Easter holiday before playing in the World Youth Cup in Gothenburg in July.

**Elizabeth Thomas**, Acting Head, Said 'We are very proud of all three boys, this is a wonderful achievement and we hope that they can learn a great deal about football and themselves from this experience. The school fully supports any student who wants to try new sports whether they make the top teams or just participate for fun and fitness, but it is always wonderful to see our students achieving the goals that they set themselves'.

## House Cross-Country Championships



The senior cross-country championships race was won by **Leo Packham** (Grove House) who has now won the senior event in all three of the races that he has been able to enter, equalling the record of **Andrew Kurowski** (Field House) in the 1990's. No other athlete has ever achieved this outstanding feat.

In the senior race, **Matteo Spanu** (Grove House) was

second and **Adam Ruddlesden** (Field House) third.

The junior race was dominated by **Sam Brabham** (Field House) who set an extremely fast pace from the off and finished over one minute ahead of second placed **Stephen Bradbury** (Field House). **Theo Masters-Waage** (Grove House) was third.

Field won the junior and senior team competitions and, in doing so, retained the House Cross-Country Cup.



## U13 Mini Hockey

Yet again our Mini Hockey team have done well this term. The team came first in the St. Joseph's Invitational Tournament, beating The Holt 1-0, Bearwood 3-0, St. Joseph's B 1-0 and drawing 0-0 with St. Joseph's A. Well done on a great team effort.

## Reading Schools Netball



Year 7 Netball Team

All our teams are doing well in the Reading Schools Netball, all improving match on match.

Year 8 played a straight final against The Abbey winning 4-2 and being crowned Reading Schools Year 8 Netball Champions. The Year 9 team didn't win this time round but definitely played some of their best netball this season. All other teams have done well with vast improvement seen. If we continue we will soon be seeing more medals coming home from the girls.

In the Reading Schools Senior Tournament the U15 A team came 2nd to The Abbey out of 6 teams in the U16 tournament and the U15 B team came 6th in the U15 tournament, improving well each match.

# Individual Achievements



## MITCHELL GUTTERIDGE

Mitch has continued to be a regular in the Reading FC U.14 Academy side and has recently been selected for the Berkshire U.14 football squad



## RYAN BRIGHT

Having been through a difficult trials process last term Ryan has been selected to play in fixtures for the Berkshire U.14 rugby team this term.

Visit [www.leightonpark.com](http://www.leightonpark.com) for latest news stories and up-to-date information.



## THEO MASTERS-WAAGE

Theo has been selected to play regularly for the Berkshire U.15 rugby team this term. His performances there have encouraged the London Irish academy selectors to invite him for weekly training sessions at their Sunbury HQ and put him forward for a national inter-academy tournament in May as part of the London Irish squad.



## KRISTIAN CALLAGHAN

Having travelled to Pune, India for the Commonwealth Youth games in October Kristian Callaghan had his first international medal success when he won bronze and silver medals at Intershoot, an international competition in The Hague in February

## PHIL DUNSTER

Phil has played regularly for the Berkshire U.17 rugby team during the term. On one weekend he combined a county match with rehearsals for West Side Story!



## NATHAN MORGAN

Has gained himself a position in the Vale of White Horse (South Oxfordshire) U14 Football Team.



## LIZZIE HEARN and ALIENA ARCHER

Both girls have played regularly for the Thames Valley.



## JAKE ELIAS

Has attended nets at the county ground, Taunton for trials for the West of England U.15 cricket squad.

# World Maths Day



On the 4th March Leighton Park School, for the second year running, was part of a global celebration of numbers as children from across the world united in their quest to break the world record in answering mental arithmetic questions!

Since World Maths Day was introduced in 2007, the number of students participating has grown to over 2 million, from 20,000 schools in 204 countries.

The students played against each other live on the internet once the computer had searched for an opponent of similar ability. Students were captivated by the fact that they were playing in real

time with other children across the globe.

The event grew this year with more pupils joining in, as we introduced a House Competition. It was a very enjoyable way to promote numeracy across the school. The pupils made significant improvements in their mental arithmetic skills and had a great deal of fun in the process! The official competition began on the 5th March 2008 and it exceeded its seemingly humble beginnings in 2007 by a new world record of 182,455,169 questions answered correctly over the globe in the 48 hours.

This year Leighton Park doubled its total, contributing to the world record being smashed again to 452,681,681. In our House competition Field House and School House were both awarded prizes. However, if Fryer House had had the same amount of internet access, their number of questions per pupil would have beaten the senior houses! Well done to all involved.

**Bridget Evans**

# A talk by Rob Wilson, MP



On Monday 9th February Rob Wilson, MP for Reading East, came to speak to us about current affairs, the Conservative Party and his role as a local MP. Rob

explained how he interacts with his constituents and the duties he performs in Parliament on our behalf.

The economic crisis was obviously at the forefront of the forum and Rob also discussed Labour's woes and what the Conservatives would do if in power. Rob took questions from the audience, which mostly comprised of Sixth Formers and Year 11 students. The talk was a great insight into the workings of Westminster and thanks to **Pippa Bleach** for organising yet another impressive speaker.

By **Jozef Pundek, U6**

# Hope for Planet Earth

On Friday 6th March 'Hope for Planet Earth' visited Leighton Park to talk to students about many issues facing our world and planet today. It is a collaborative project between several organisations (SJI, Tearfund, ARocha, John Ray Initiative and Faraday Institute for Science and religion).

The tour group includes leading experts who explained the scientific, humanitarian, geographical and ethical issues of climate change. The students were given areas to discuss how these issues affect them and those around them, and what each of us can do, however small, to improve the lives of all that live on our wonderful planet.

The issues that were covered are reflected in Beliefs and Values, Geography and the Sciences.

**Charlotte Cammings, Lucy Heath and Alex Cheng** commented 'It opened our eyes to the impact we have on people half way across the world. Who knows such small differences could make such a big effect on the world? I never knew how much I could do, together we can save the world!'

# German Exchange



In February a group of Leighton Park students made their way to Hamburg in Germany. We were all delighted by the warm welcome we received from the German host families, exchange partners and the school, Gymnasium Ohlstedt. As usual, the time was divided between school, excursions and the host families.

On our first day, we enjoyed a guided tour around Hamburg and the harbour. The size and scale of the harbour was extremely impressive and although

some of the former trade routes do not lead through the harbour anymore, it is still of great significance, especially in the carpet trade.

We also had the opportunity to visit Luebeck, a UNESCO world heritage site founded in 1143. Many of the 1800 listed buildings still give an impression of the flourishing town this was once the height of the sea trade. The 'Holstentor' is the only city gate still visible today.

On the remaining days we visited two museums and also enjoyed some time shopping for presents. We are now looking forward to the visit of the German group to Leighton Park at the end of April.

**Alexandra Toms**