

the park

Summer 2008

the Leighton Park School newsletter



IB Update

Record Exam Results
Marvellous Music Tour



Headlines



Dear Friends,

As I write, a party of LP pupils is taking part in an expedition in India, trekking in the Himalayas and working in community projects in Leh, capital of the Ladakh region. A full report will appear in the next edition of The Park.

As the holiday began, the choir and orchestra set off for a tremendously successful concert tour to Denmark and Sweden, giving four concerts which were extremely well received by enthusiastic audiences. This was the largest such venture yet undertaken, and the standard of music reached by players and singers alike was very high indeed.

All of this came at the end of another busy and fulfilling term, with a most enjoyable and well organised day of athletics championships held for a change in warm sunshine. The achievements of that day capped a term of sporting success, including a fine match played by the 1st XI against the MCC which we only narrowly lost.

A term of many highlights included a visit to speak at Sunday Evening Meeting by Bruce Kent, the internationally known peace campaigner. His inspiring talk left no one in any doubt about the possibility of realising a more peaceful and co-operative world: on this occasion he did not speak about nuclear arms in particular, the aspect that he is perhaps best known for, but showed just how wide-ranging his vision could be. It was a privilege to have him with us.

Music for a Summer's Evening was once again a very enjoyable occasion, actively supported by the Parents' Association, who had also created the first PTA Ball which we are delighted should now be an a regular event. That was a truly magical occasion, and I know that the Parents' Association

have a number of enjoyable events lined up for us to look forward to.

Among the staff changes at the end of term I must mention in particular **John Allinson**, who lays down the post of Senior Master, and takes up a new role this term looking after the ever-increasing community of Old Leightonians, as well as the school archives, while fortunately continuing with some teaching as well. John's contribution to the school over more than 30 years has been quite exceptional, and I am glad that it continues now through his new role.

Finally, I am delighted to offer congratulations to pupils, students and staff who have once again achieved outstanding results. 43% of all A level grades were A, and 72% A or B. At GCSE, 97% of grades were A*-Cs with almost a quarter of pupils gaining eight or more A*/As.

I hope that you have all had a good summer holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the new year.

JOHN DUNSTON
Head

Important Dates

Fri 12th /Sat 13th Sept	Fryer Newcomers Camping
Sun 14th Sept 7.30pm	Sunday Evening Meeting; speaker John Dunston
Thurs 18th Sept 3.00-6.30pm	GAP Year Fair
Fri 19th Sept 7.00pm	Newcomers Parents' Evening (Years 7-10)
26th-29th Sept	Sixth Form Adventure weekend
Sat 4th Oct	Annual Open Morning
Tues 7th Oct 7.30pm	Parents' Quaker Forum and PTA AGM
Wed 8th Oct 7.15pm	Soloists' Concert
Wed 15th Oct 7.15pm	Ensembles Concert
Sun 19th Oct 7.30pm	Sunday Evening Meeting: speaker Kristina Leonnet
Wed 22nd Oct 4.15-3rd Nov 6.00pm	Long Leave
23rd-30th Oct	Sixth Form Cultural Trip to Russia
Tues 4th Nov 7.00pm	New Horizons Sixth Form Information evening
Fri 7th Nov	PTA Fireworks Evening: advance tickets only
Sun 9th Nov 7.30pm	Sunday Evening Meeting; speaker Philippa Bleach
Wed 12th Nov 7.30pm	An Evening of Jazz
Wed 19th Nov 7.30pm	Songwriters' Concert
Wed 26th Nov 7.15pm	JBH Speech Competition
Wed 3rd Dec 7.15pm	Christmas Concert
Sun 7th Dec 7.30pm	Christmas Evening Meeting
Fri 12th Dec 12.15pm	End of term

Front Cover: Kate Green, Issi Mead, Lucy Heath, Alex Cheng

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for up-to-date news

Record Results



Once again, LP students are celebrating a 99% A level pass rate, the sixth year running it has been between 98 and 100%. No less than 43% of the A level results were Grade A, with almost three quarters of all pupils' grades (72%) being A or B; once again students achieved an average of over 3 passes each. There were 100% pass rates at grades A/B in art & design, economics, French, further maths, ICT, music technology, psychology and religious studies.

Nearly a quarter of the students achieved three or more A grades. **Imran Siddiqui** achieved 4As and **Fran Germer** 3As and B. The

following twelve students achieved 3 A grades: **Alex Barker, Paul Bell, Corin Briault-Hutter, Tim Cheng, Leonore Cilliers, Hope Clayton, Matthew Dunston, Sam Kanza, Nick Sampson, Seb Wallace, Arun Wilson, Felix Wong**. In fact Felix is one of the candidates who scored one of the top five marks in further mathematics in the country, a remarkable achievement.

At GCSE, 97% of pupils achieved passes at A*-C and an overall 94% pass rate, the highest ever. Almost a quarter of pupils gained 8 or more subjects at A*/A grades with the highest ever number of average passes at 9.6. The average points per candidate score was also the highest ever at 60.5%, as was the average points per entry, an impressive 6.27. There were 100% pass rates at A*-C in maths, physics, Latin and German, subjects where there appears to be a national crisis, and also in history, art and design, drama and music.

Sam Poulson achieved ten A* grades, and with ten A*/As were **Esther Briault-Hutter, Sophie Herbert, Alice Martineau, Emma Lucas, Joe Pitt** and **Amber Wilson**.

John Dunston comments: I am often asked what subjects we are strong in, as if a school can only achieve strong



results in a specific area. At LP, our results again show that not only do our scientists and mathematicians produce excellent results year in, year out,

but so do our students of modern foreign languages and the humanities. For example, no less than 68% of the A Level maths students achieved grade A, while eight of the ten students taking art also got the highest grade. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) are calling for the sciences to be studied separately, as they are at LP. 71% of the chemistry and physics A level grades were A/B with 60% in biology.

Staff News

Our good wishes and thanks went to the staff who left us at the end of term:

Alison Ellis, Simon Gifford, Jane Kennedy, Tariq Khan, Paula Masters, Jacqueline Neal, Pat Robson, Ivan Russell-Swinnerton, Yun Yun Tang, Lindsey Thompson. Residents; Amy Clucas, Tom Fray, Sean Kenneally, Jordy Swanborough, Laura Wyatt, Annika Wybrow.

At the end of term we also said goodbye to **Christine Smyth** who has moved permanently to the Isle of Wight after 14 years at the school. In her capacity as Head of Geography, Christine has been a model of professionalism, inspiring generations of students with her passion for the subject, her meticulous attention to their work, and her own preparation. Her field trips were memorable events in themselves, and her relationship with the pupils always supportive. Christine brought similar qualities to her pastoral work, both as a tutor and during her time as Deputy Housemistress of School House. She will be much missed, and we all wish her well for the future.

Good Schools Guide

A reviewer from the prestigious Good Schools Guide has delivered an outstanding assessment of Leighton Park, concluding that **"More schools would do well to adopt the LP model"**. The report also states: **"Many schools vaunt their 'special atmosphere' but at LP it's tangible. We thought it one of the most distinctive schools we'd visited and came away with a renewed sense of hope for the future."**

Following an in-depth visit, the review will feature in the 2008 edition of the Good Schools Guide, and is already available on the guide's website. The guide is the only independent directory of private and state schools, providing a valuable and forthright view of the schools selected.

The report endorses the school's approach to teaching and praises the relationship between pupils and staff. Pupils in the drama department were described as **"oozing with talent"** and the extensive art, music and extra-curricular opportunities were recognised too. Parents who were interviewed described sport as "coming of age", and the report comments on how the school **"punches above its weight"** with sports achievements at local, regional and national level.

Probably the finest recommendation, is the following statement from an existing pupil interviewed by the reviewer: **"My friends can't work out why I choose to spend so much of my spare time at LP ... but I just love it here,"** beamed one girl.

Visit www.leightonpark.com for latest news stories and up-to-date information.

Fryer News

Surf's Up!

Year 8 ended their time in Fryer (and enjoyed some post-exam fun!) with their Adventure Training in Pembrokeshire.

Anna Burrows writes: Adventure training was the best school trip I have ever been on! We did so many activities such as raft building, surfing, coastering, climbing and problem solving. It was really good team building and helped friendships grow stronger.

Nurdaulet Sagyndyk enjoyed surfing: It was good fun but freezing. You have



to look for the wave, then start paddling when it's close, then when you are going fast, you try and stand up. **Tom Rojas** enjoyed raft building: An instructor helped us build the rafts and carry them to the water which wasn't too cold; we had to race to a

little pebble beach half a mile away. Our team won though we lost half our raft in the current.



Fryers in France

Françoise Wilson, Head of Modern Languages writes: We visited Boulogne with year 7 and year 8 in May. In the morning we went for a walk by the sea at Cap Gris Nez, followed by lunch in a restaurant in Boulogne for a typical three course French meal. In the afternoon we visited a sweet factory then looked around the town centre. All the children practised their French in the shops and the café, where they each ordered their drink. It was a lovely day for all of us. The children were happy and behaved impeccably at all times.



Charity Challenge

This year's Fryer Triathlon was raising money for Ripple Africa. **Roger Aylward**, Head of Fryer writes: We had the largest ever number of pupils taking part with ten pupils completing the whole triathlon on their own, with about sixty others working as part of a team. It was a really enjoyable afternoon with all of Fryer involved, whether as competitors or as judges and marshalls and as a bonus, several hundred pounds were raised for charity.

Jake Maskell explains: We do lots of things to raise money for charity; one of these was the Fryer Triathlon. This is made up of cycling, running and swimming and is good fun and a great way to raise money.



Fryer Festival



The Beijing Olympics transfixed the nation this summer so it was fitting that the Olympic oath, spoken in Mandarin Chinese and English was featured in the Fryer Festival production "Summertime".

Geraint Thomas, Head of Drama, described it as a pot pourri of poems, songs and short extracts from plays to welcome the summer season. Authors represented included Dennis

Potter, Willy Russell, Roger McGough; many Fryer students presented their own work. It was a real celebration of long, hot sunny days and holidays.

Swooping from the comedy of the rules of cricket or the love life of Adrian Mole and Pandora, to the tragic summer of 1918 on the Somme, the show ended with a rousing finale of "Summer Holiday".

Hannah Lloyd writes: The Fryer Festival gives pupils the chance to express themselves with a song, a poem or in a play. **Grace Vaughan** adds: The Festival is a good thing for the new year 7s who will be joining the school, as well as a way for us to see our friends and maybe have a game of rounders, volleyball or football; a fun day.

Sixth Form

Politics alive

In our first year of studying politics we have been learning about the workings of Parliament, writes **Lorna Wilson**. In April we had the opportunity to visit it. The tour gave us a great insight into the history, making us realise how important Parliament has been for centuries and will be for centuries to come.



The buildings were first used as a palace for Edward the Confessor. It's still referred to as the 'Palace of Westminster'. It was used as a palace until Henry VIII moved the Royal Family out following the fire in 1512. We visited both the Lords and Commons Chambers where all great



political figures such as Winston Churchill would have once debated. The House of Commons Chamber is really quite small. Although there are 659 MPs, there are only 427 seats so sometimes, when very important matters are being discussed, Members will be squeezed onto the benches and some will sit on the steps.

It is hard to describe just how magnificent Parliament is with huge paintings of past Kings and Queens and battles. Seeing Parliament was inspiring - it brought politics to life!

New Horizons



The popular New Horizons Sixth Form Induction programme was attended by record numbers of students. We were delighted too that some students joining the Sixth Form in September from home and abroad were able to join in too and to start to make friends. Three days of activities encouraged team-building, to learn new skills and to sample chosen A level subjects and tutorial style teaching. New this year were archery, kayaking and the climbing wall. The final evening was the Horizons Ball, a Hollywood themed night rounding off the GCSE stage in school in style.



Leavers' Awards

We are proud of all our students for all they have achieved at Leighton Park as they move on to university or Gap year. Listings will shortly be available on the school website.

We were pleased to make the following awards to students: congratulations to them all.

The Jorge Hortal Award for Outstanding Achievement:
Nick Hayles



Old Leightonian Award:
Jack Stubbs



WH Scarborough Award:
Matthew Dunston



Special Award for Services to Music:
Mary Triddon



Paul Dowdell Award for Artistic Achievement:
Rose Fooks

Prefects

Congratulations to **James Barratt** and **Ellen Green, Daniel Galli** and **Lizzie Hearn** who have been appointed Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies, respectively Also to the following who are appointed Prefects **Ben Angwin, Aliena Archer, Remy Archer, Lizzy Benedikz, Mark Brandt, Alistair Cobbold, Izzy Dodds, Lauren Fisher, Amelia Glynn, Stuart Gough, Verity Groom, Edward Ireland, Andrey Krivko, Willem Liebert, Purna Venkatesan-Ogin, Leo Packham, Becky Pooley, Jozef Pundek, Amy Simmons, Sam Sturge, Tom Williams** and **Lorna Wilson**.

We wish them all a successful year.

IB News

The countdown continues towards our planned introduction of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme alongside A levels from September 2009. Key staff attended IB training in Athens

in the summer, being able to share their knowledge and experience with teachers from all over the world, some already teaching the IB. The next major step is our accreditation visit from IB staff towards the end of September; we hope that we will have good news shortly after and will communicate it as soon as possible.

Environment Week



Year 9 took part in a pioneering and highly successful Environment Week at the end of term. **Rachel Martin**, one of the week's coordinators explains: The aim of the week was to challenge pupils to research and analyse a variety of environmental themes, to create a newspaper and the week culminated in a debate and PowerPoint presentation. Not only was this an academic exercise, but showed students some of the skills of independent learning, teamwork, research using a variety of sources, all vital for success with the IB. We were delighted by the enthusiasm of the pupils for the task: working in teams, they had to define roles, realising that without each person fulfilling their tasks, the whole group would fail.

For example, there was an editor, a statistician, a graphics designer, a researcher and debater within each team, all of whom had separate sessions with staff to work on their element. One of the key parts of the IB is reflection on the learning process so the final presentation enabled the pupils to think about how they had grown as learners during the activity.



All of the themes of Peak Oil, Genetically Modified Foods, Nuclear Power and Bio Fuels had groups exploring the pros and cons. The

final newspapers and debates were of a very high standard as pupils had really thrown themselves into the task.

A key part of the week was analysing the learning process. Group B wrote:

We have learned about environmental issues and how our lifestyles impact on the world. We also learned how to work in a group with so much to do in such a small space of time, to meet deadlines, and adapt to new situations. We have learned to look at both sides of an argument and it has changed our opinions, and also to analyse sources.

And as individuals, **George** enjoyed the professional working environment; Drawing the cartoon was special for **Poppy**; **Lys** thought working in a small group was interesting; Doing something different in school was fun for **Alvaro**; **Marianne** enjoyed typing faster than the speed of light; **Henry** relished the opportunity to use his leadership skills; **Graham's** quietly powerful contributions inspired the group; and **Ryan** revelled in speech writing.

Group E carried out research in Reading about their subject Nuclear Power.

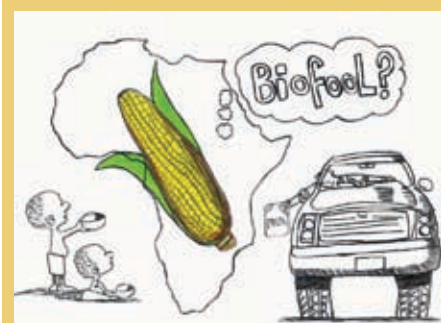
We asked 60 people in Reading whether they thought that nuclear power was a good substitute for burning fossil fuels!

Well over half agreed and thought that

nuclear power should be given 'the go-ahead'. 23% said that they had no opinion or did not know enough about Nuclear power to come to a conclusion. Surprisingly, a large proportion of these people didn't even know what Nuclear Power was. Of the 22% who answered no, over half could not give a reason as

An extract from the Pro Bio Fuels newspaper:

Chris Walker writes: As bio fuels are quickly becoming a solution to the rising prices of oil and global warming, many questions are coming up from these contradicting and confusing times. Such as, will the prices of bio-fuels be more than conventional fuel? And will using these bio fuels have a knock on effect with living costs? My answer is that generally using bio fuels with help strengthen the economic structure of most countries', especially less economically developed countries who can't afford fuels. This will bring down living costs because electricity bills will be cheaper and heating costs will be considerably lower which could bring up the countries' economic wealth. At the moment the United Kingdom is looking at a bleak future and is nearing recession; the usage of bio fuels could help bring the UK away from recession as the boom in oil prices is a main culprit of the UK's recent economic downfall. So should the average citizen of the United Kingdom have this alternative to conventional fuels on their mind? I would say yes, but at the moment we should be thinking of promoting bio fuels and trying to get governmental bodies and large corporations backing the development of the usage of bio fuels, rather than trying to making investments in bio fuels, because if we don't get a strong start, the whole idea of bio fuels will crumble all together.



to why they gave the answer; the rest said either that they were worried about the waste and how it was kept; also people said it was due to bad press, and some even said they had no idea what it was but there were a lot of bad rumours that they had believed as they knew no better!

Arts

LP on tour



Performing in a medieval castle, floating in a harbour, appreciative audiences, as well as being support act to Sweden's Pop Idol winner were just some of the great experiences for members of the Senior Choir and Orchestra during the recent tour to Scandinavia.

Rosemary Scales, Director of Music enthuses: Tours are always exciting, exhilarating and exhausting, and each one seems to improve on the last. Most of us had never visited Sweden and Denmark so it was great to visit well known attractions, such as the Tivoli Gardens or the Little Mermaid. This was the largest group we have ever taken abroad and pupils were described as "a credit to the school."

The repertoire included classical, jazz and traditional pieces; **Bertie Marks'** solo in the Trombone Concerto (2nd Movement) by Rimsky-Korsakov was well received. There were performances at Lund Kulturen Open Air Museum, Gothenburg Maritime Museum, the spectacular ruined castle of Bohus Fästning (Kungälv) and Kongens Nytorv Square (Copenhagen). The new CD "Music in the Park" was on sale and audience members snapped it up as a souvenir.



Music Notes



The House Music Competition is always one of our annual highlights, and this year's was no exception in the quality of the music and passion of the performers (and their supporters). Adjudicators **Emily White** (trombonist), **Jason Rebello** (solo and session performer) and **Jerry Brown** (drummer Girls Aloud) were overwhelmed by the event and the high calibre of the performers.

The overall winners were Field House, for the first time featuring girls in their line-up; it was an extremely close contest, with only four points between



the houses. The solo performer winner was **James Ross**, clarinet (School); original composition winner

Olivia Wheeler-Robinson (Reckitt); small and large ensemble winners were Field House.

Laura Marling (left 2007) has hit the headlines with her debut CD "Alas I Cannot Swim" which has been nominated for the prestigious Mercury Award. Anyone who saw Laura perform while at school will not be surprised and we wish her every success.

LP CD: copies of the new CD Music in the Park, are available at the price of £8 from the Music Department.

Book Ends

Nicola Morgan

As part of Leighton Park's National Year of Reading celebrations, author **Nicola Morgan** spent the afternoon discussing her novels with Fryer students, writes **Chris Routh**, Librarian. This was followed by an early evening talk for local parents, teachers and school librarians. Both sessions were entertaining and informative and there was great interest in Nicola's groundbreaking books about the teenage brain: "Blame my brain" and "Know your brain".

Book Covers

LP students won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in the Key Stage 3 Category of the Book Cover Competition, organised by the Berkshire Education Library Service as part of the annual Book Festival. Out of the 735 entries submitted, LP students 'made an outstanding showing', collecting all three prizes for KS3. Congratulations



to **Nicole Burns** (Year 7) in third place for "My Lion Club Friend", **Eleanor Dibiase** (Year 8) in second place for "Tears" and **Frankie Taylor**, the winner (Year 9) made an outstanding show for "Prescription: My New Best Friend".

WEST SIDE STORY	Senior Production
	11th -13th
	February 2009
	Tickets on sale after Christmas



Impressions of war

"Having been there I find it difficult to quantify the sense of senseless loss" is a quote from the travel journal I kept on the two day trip to Ypres and the Somme, writes **Naomi Alderson**. It describes, as best as I could, the effect that visiting cemeteries like Langemark and Tyne Cot had on all of us.

The trip allowed us to give names to the numbers so often listed as "the First World War Dead". Seeing the memorials first-hand brought invaluable personal experience to what we have learned about the First World War. Equally, hearing the horrors described in the poetry of Owen and Sassoon, read amongst the trenches where they happened vivified the imagery. They will never again just be words on a page, but personal accounts of places that exist in our memories too, although much changed.

Rob Holden adds: Visiting my great grandfather's grave was a moving and memorable experience for me. It certainly was one of the highlights of the trip, having only heard accounts of my great grandfather from my parents before.

Sport 200m Champion

Track stars

This has been another successful summer for LP students in Athletics. The highlight, of course, was the selection of **Funto Fabunmi-Alade** to represent Berkshire at the England Schools' Athletics Championships. Her subsequent victory in the 200m was possibly one of the finest ever sporting successes the school has witnessed as she is now the national champion in her age group!

In June, 61 students took part in the Reading Schools Championships at Palmer Park. During the day there were a number of excellent performances and these included:

Funto Fabunmi-Alade (1st U.16 200m and long jump), **Matt O'Farrell** (1st U.14 100m), **Oliver Lungley** (1st U.14 Discus, 2nd U.14 800m), **Stephen Bradbury** (1st U.16 800m), **Ross Batten** (2nd U.14 1500m), **Rory Pearson** (2nd U.14 Shot), **Ben Peers** (2nd U.13 1000m), **Nirpal Singh** (2nd U.13 Shot), **Savannah Fekarurhobo** (2nd U.14 Shot), **Melanie Thomas** (2nd U.13 Discus).

Congratulations to the following 23 who were subsequently selected to represent Reading Schools in the Berkshire Championships:

Juniors: **Matt O'Farrell** (200m), **Ross Batten** (800m), **Sam Brabham** (1500m), **Ryan Bright** (triple jump), **Bill McLoughlin** (shot), **Oliver Lungley** (discus), **Funto Fabunmi-Alade** (200m), **Savannah Fekarurhobo** (shot).

Intermediates: **Beth Murphy** (javelin), **Billie** (shot), **Saxby Fitzjohn** (200m), **Gulam Khan** (200m), **Matteo Spanu** (1500m), **Elliot Cocks** (long jump), **Rory Tollett** (javelin), **Huw Tarry** (discus).

Seniors: **Callum Tarry** (shot), **Morris Symington** (800m), **Stuart Gough** (shot), **Lizzie Hearn** (javelin), **Amy Simmons** (100m), **Aliena Archer** (100m), **Leo Packham** (3000m).

Funto Fabunmi-Alade, for the second year running was selected to run for Berkshire at the ESAA Sainsbury's English Schools' Track & Field Championships 2008 held in Gateshead on 11th and 12th July, writes **Jakki Marr**, Head of Girls PE and Games.

Last summer it was the 100m and she achieved a place in the semi-final. This year it was the 200m.



Funto breezed through the 1st round clocking the fastest qualifying time of 25.25 seconds. In the semi-final again Funto recorded the fastest time with 25.00 seconds, 3 tenths ahead of the rest of the field. She qualified for the final as the fastest runner and delivered the goods for Berkshire and Leighton Park. She finished 1st, 4 tenths ahead of all the others. What a fantastic achievement. Many athletes at the Beijing Olympics were winners at the English Schools.....what a year to be an English Schools Champion!!!

Cricket



The 1st XI has had a good term and a prominent feature of the summer has been the inclusion of a number of younger players in the team. At different times **Jake Elias**, **George Williams** and **Lewis Sullivan** made useful contributions. Jake was also selected for the Berkshire Under 14 squad and he played in county matches throughout the summer and was one of just eight boys in Berkshire who received coaching on the elite player programme. **Joe Groom**, **Seb Powers** and **Edward Hunter** all scored half centuries during the term and **Nick Hayles** and **Aaron Mata** both took five wickets in an innings.

The William Denselow Cup was presented to **Edward Hunter** for his outstanding achievement and commitment to school cricket over the last four years.

The OL match against school celebrated a great landmark this year with **Graham Carter** marking his 30th year of playing in this match. It is excellent to see the ties between former and present cricketers going strong. To cap his day the OLs won by 20 runs.

Our annual fixture with the MCC produced another close encounter with the School just failing to overcome the Club's total. It was a fitting way for Julien Brady to complete his ten years as match manager for the MCC. After the game a reception was held in the Head's garden for both teams when a presentation was made to Julien from the school.

Twenty20

The summer of 2008 saw the inaugural Twenty20 competition on the Park between the Old Leightonians, the School 1st XI and a Staff XI. On a day blessed with excellent weather and with a great community atmosphere, the three teams played each other on a round robin basis.

In the first match, the Staff XI, in their stylish pink outfits, proved just too strong for the 1st XI who were well turned out in sky blue. After lunch the Staff team posted a more than challenging total for the OLs and in doing so became the first Leighton Park Twenty20 champions.

An excellent day was completed with a barbeque outside the pavilion and plans are already underway for a similar tournament in 2009.



House sport

Mark Simmons, Head of PE and Games writes: For the first time ever the House Athletics Championships were held at the end of term this year, enabling us to combine the senior school's and Fryer events. In recent years the House Athletics has been dominated by Field and Reckitt. However, in 2008, Grove House made a determined bid for the title with all round commitment to events from the boys and girls. In the end, Grove won the House Athletics trophy convincingly by 80 points from second placed Field.

In Fryer, the Girls Individual



championship was shared between **Savannah Fekarurhobo** and **Maya Wilson** and the Boys title won convincingly by **Matt O'Farrell**

The Junior Girls Individual champion was **Funto**

Fabunmi-Alade and the junior Boys champion was **Gulam Khan**

who performed well on the track in throwing events

Gulam was run very close by **Matteo Spanu** and **Stephen Bradbury**.



Amy Simmons was the Senior Girls Individual champion, (winning 100m, 200m & long jump)

Morris Symington was the Senior Boys Individual champion for the second time (winning 400m, 800m, 1500m).



Double winners

Morris will have the opportunity to make his second time win a treble in 2009 which would really be an outstanding achievement. However, he is not alone in winning individual titles for a second time.

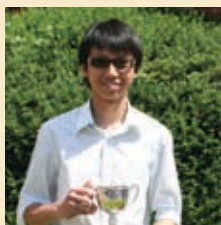
In Tennis, **Beth Murphy** became the Junior Girls Singles champion for the second time when she beat Funto in the final.



Lewis Sullivan, a tennis scholar at Wentworth, retained the Junior Boys Singles title when he beat **Ben Dearden** in this year's final.

Katie Hopkinson,

who won the Junior Girl's Singles title in 2005 & 2006 became the Senior Girls champion when she beat **Lizzie Hearn** in the final.



Joe Leung

continued his outstanding individual record in tennis when he beat **James Barratt** in a close Senior Boys

Singles final. Joe won the Junior title in 2005 & 2006 and the Senior title last year. He will also have an opportunity to make a 'clean sweep' in 2009.

Fryer House Shield:

During the year different house competitions have been won by all three houses (Bournville, Cadbury and

Rowntree) in equal measure. By the end of the summer term, Bournville had managed three wins, Rowntree five and **Cadbury** five. There was, therefore, great anticipation during the final competition, the House Athletics, right at the end of term. In winning the team



competition in the Athletics Cadbury became the 2008 winners of the Fryer Shield.

The Richard Coleman Shield:

Even back in October it was clear that this year's House Shield competition was going to be very close. At Christmas, Grove were ahead of School by just one point. At Easter, Field had pulled ahead by three points from Grove but only 12 points separated all four houses. With this term's house competitions added, the final points for the Richard Coleman Shield are as follows: Grove 71, Field 67, Reckitt 53 and School 50. Grove last won the Shield in 1988 - twenty years ago! Well done to Grove House.



Participation in school sport

An interesting statistic. During this school year 69% of LP pupils have represented the school in at least one sport. Further, nearly 38% has represented the school in two or more sports.

PTA Fireworks Night

Friday 7th November 2008

BBQ supper served from 6.30

Fireworks at 8.00pm

Tickets: £12 adult, £6 under 18s

This event sold out last year so tickets are available on a first come first served basis, from the School Office.

Animal Antics



Year 10 students visited the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in Beenham. **Jane Murray** writes: We were taken to see the enclosures where the three packs of different wolves were situated; I was amazed at how sociable they were. You get to see the wolves more here than you would in a zoo and this surprised me as I thought they would be sleeping. The wolves were moulting so we all got to touch some of their hair. It was incredibly soft.

My favourite wolf was Alba who tragically broke some vertebrae in 2005 while playing with his pack. He is probably the only wolf to have been in a hydrotherapy pool! He has now made a

really good recovery. The trip was very enjoyable as I got to learn a lot about wolves and gave me a better insight on how endangered they are. I liked how the wolves responded to us howling, by howling back! The trip also gave me a better insight on how endangered the wolves are.

Year 9 had a lovely day in the sunshine learning about conservation and looking at the animals at London Zoo, writes **Helen Taylor**, Head of Biology. We particularly enjoyed watching the penguins at feeding time; impressed by the deft manipulation required to spin fish so they are eaten head first - to avoid choking on a fin. The Conservation talk was very interesting and gave everyone a better understanding of the problems faced by threatened species and the importance of the work of conservationists. The antics of the pupils as they swarmed over wooden play equipment were remarkably reminiscent of the behaviour of the monkeys playing on the branches and other structures in their enclosures.

Roller Coaster Science



Rachel Mayne writes: How much physics can you learn from a day at Thorpe Park? Year 10 can now tell you about conservation of energy; gravitational potential energy, $PE = mgh$; kinetic energy, $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$; velocity and acceleration, Newton's Laws, $F = ma$ and g-forces. They can also tell you what great fun it is to experience energy transfers!

Why is this so important? These concepts are important components of the GCSE syllabus and it is extremely useful background knowledge for one of their data handling tasks, based on roller coasters. Having had practical experience of the rides, it will be easier to remember the physics behind them.

Lottie Dodwell agrees: Going to Thorpe Park was great fun and also helped me in my understanding of the data task. Seeing the rides, and finding out how they worked made me appreciate how physics helps in the real world.

Bobby Arvesen concludes: Learning about the conservation of energy was quite fun, talking about Stealth's 0-80mph in 1.9s was even better, but better still was actually experiencing the acceleration first hand!

In Brief

European Computer Driving License: A recent audit of teaching standards for this sought after ICT qualification awarded LP an A grade. We can now continue to offer this qualification to Sixth Formers, and in due course, also offer the advanced level.

Friends School, Hobart: **John Dunston** visited the Quaker School in Tasmania, during a personal visit to Australia, cementing the relationship between the schools. Jack Stubbs will be continuing

Magic for Africa

Lorna Cummings, Chair of the Parents Association writes: Even when the occasion is held to raise funds for a worthy cause such as The Ripple Africa Project, the Summer Ball organisers still had to ensure that guests had a splendid evening. We are fortunate at LP that the grounds are so spectacular and well maintained, that the catering and support staff are so competent and friendly, and that the PTA members are so creative, talented and hard working. The champagne and canapés on the terrace were however dependent on a warm summer's evening and to our relief we were granted a gloriously balmy night.



In true LP fashion the atmosphere was relaxed and light-hearted despite the dinner jackets, which gives the men a touch of that 007 glamour. There was a splendid auction where many of you were very generous with both your donations and your bids.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this a fabulous night, the staff and the ball committee, the musicians and all those who attended. This is the start of a new tradition and above all, the reason that we can donate over £7000 to Ripple Africa, which will make a real difference to their work.

Make a note of June 6th 2009 for the next one!

the programme of LP GAP students there this year. We were pleased to welcome **John Green**, Principal, to school in the summer.

Maths Challenge: Seniors: 15 students from year 11 and above were awarded merit certificates; **Felix Wong** was awarded best in school. Intermediate: Almost half the 83 entrants attained merits, with 9 Gold, 11 Silver and 17 Bronze. **Mirin Pearce, Jiahuan Zhang, Andrew Dyson** and **Sam Poulson** qualified for the Europe-wide Pink Kangaroo Qualifiers round, for the brightest young mathematicians.

