

the park

Autumn 2008

the Leighton Park School newsletter



LP is an IB World School
JBH Speech Competition
New Website Launch

Headlines



Dear Friends,

At Collect and Meeting for Worship during the term, we have experienced extraordinary moments of spirituality, without the word itself being mentioned. Whether the theme of the Collect, or ministry at Meeting, related to Olympic gold medals or who actually owns our planet; to the Hadron Collider, volcanoes, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, St Andrew, the Christmas Truce in the trenches or just being there for each other: our early morning gatherings are almost invariably a surprise and a stimulation, an experience of awe and wonder, and

a glimpse of the presence of God, in a way hard to imagine outside the context of a Quaker school.

Our regular 3-4 yearly inspection of boarding took place in November. I am pleased to report that we have met all seven of the standards, and been rated good or outstanding in four of them. Congratulations to everyone.

Perhaps the most important highlight of the term was our accreditation by the International Baccalaureate Organisation. We are now able to introduce the IB Diploma Programme alongside A levels in the Lower Sixth from September. It will offer a new alternative to the well-established A level route to university, and one that is entirely in keeping with the values and ethos of the school.

Special congratulations go to the U13 girls in Fryer for winning, yet again, the Reading Schools' Mini-Hockey League. In addition, the 1st XV rugby team reached the final, yet again, of the Super Six rugby competition, which we have won for three of the five years of its existence: this is a record unequalled by any of the other

independent or maintained schools in the competition.

As Christmas approached, we were able to enjoy a number of seasonal events, including an exceptionally good Christmas Concert, and another most uplifting and spiritual, Sunday Christmas Evening Meeting, as well as the more boisterous celebrations of the House Christmas Dinners, all much appreciated by those present.

I will be on sabbatical next term, travelling abroad in January, and then taking up a visiting Fellowship and a Farmington Fellowship at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. I know that the school will be very well looked after by **Elizabeth Thomas** and our colleagues while she is Acting Head, and look forward to being back in the summer term. My thanks meanwhile to the Governing Body for their support, and to so many parents who have expressed their good wishes.

My family and I wish you and yours a peaceful and happy time at Christmas and in the new year.

JOHN DUNSTON
Head

Important Dates

Sun 18th Jan 7.30pm	Sunday Evening Meeting: Janet May-Bowles
19th and 21st Jan	Year 9 trips to Imperial War Museum
Thurs 22nd Jan	Sixth Form Music trip to Birmingham Conservatoire
27th Jan - 4th Feb	French Exchange - Nantes group arrive
Thurs 5th Feb	Sixth Form Biology trip to Body World
Fri 6th Feb	PTA Family supper and Quiz Night
11th - 13th Feb 7.30pm	Senior production of "West Side Story"
13th Feb 4.30pm - 22nd Feb 6.00pm	Long Leave
26th Feb - 5th Mar	German exchange LP party to Hamburg
Thurs 26th Feb	Year 7 History trip to Warwick Castle
Fri 27th Feb	Mufti Day
Fri 27th Feb	U6 Physics trip to JET
Sun 1st Mar 7.30pm	Sunday Evening Meeting: Mitch Whitehead
Wed 4th Mar 7.15pm	Soloists' Concert
Sun 8th Mar	Performance at Royal Festival Hall
Fri 13th Mar	L6 Geography Field trip to Nettlecombe
Fri 20th Mar 6.00pm	Battlefields tour
Tues 24th Mar 4.15pm	Easter egg hunt for charity
25th Mar - 31st Mar	Spanish trip
Thur 26th Mar 6.30pm	House Music Competition
Fri 27th March 12.30pm	End of Term

Front Cover: Russia 2008

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Visit www.leightonpark.com
for up-to-date news

The David Lean Scholarship

The David Lean Foundation, established in memory of the great film director Sir David Lean, who was a pupil at Leighton Park 1922 - 1926, makes a variety of grants to charitable institutions, to the National Film and Television School, to individuals for film literature and research, and, since just a few years ago, to academically outstanding individual pupils at Leighton Park who have excelled in a number of fields, not least in their positive impact on the community. This year, an award was made to **Alice Martineau**, who is warmly congratulated on this exceptional achievement.

A portrait of Sir David Lean, donated by the Foundation, hangs in the Cadbury Room in Old School. We were privileged to be able to attend an event hosted by the Old Leightonians at the BAFTA Club in London, to mark the centenary of Sir David Lean's birth earlier this year.

PTA Fireworks

One of the few dry, bright evenings in November saw the PTA's second successful 'Fireworks on the Park' event. Around 650 pupils, siblings, parents, staff and guests enjoyed each other's company outside Oakview whilst consuming a very substantial BBQ, thanks to the fantastic catering team. We listened to your feedback from last year, and made a few changes to reduce the queues which we hope were successful.

A snake of glowing haloes towards Fryer House, indicated that it was time for the Fireworks, which did not disappoint. "I wasn't expecting the Fireworks to last so long", "they were better than the ones at the Rugby club" and "they were spectacular" were just a few of the comments that I overheard as they finished.

Although the main purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for the school community to get together, this year we did manage to make a



modest profit which will give us more options for next year's event.... So, write it in your diaries now.... Friday 6th November 2009, bigger, better, louder!!!



Staff News

We had many new starters during 2008 and hope that they are now well settled into Leighton Park and are enjoying their new posts. Our best wishes go out to:

Catherine Harman (Admissions Assistant), **David Talbot** (Bursar), **Coral Putman** (Accounts Assistant), **Zoey Emmett** (Cleaner), **Carlos Bradshaw** (Groundsman), **Michael Napier** (Groundsman), **Roy Mac'Neil** (Handyman), **Paula McMullen** (Matron of Reckitt), **Janice Bell** (Non Resident Matron), **Carolyn Harvey** (Non Resident Matron), **Christopher Lockwood** (Biology Lab Technician), **Jonathan Clarke** (Physics), **Agnes George** (Girls Games), **Susan Neilson** (Maths), **Jeremy Radburn** (Head of English), **Gemma Sims** (Biology/Chemistry), **Alexandra Toms** (Modern Languages)

New Leighton Park

Website

December 2008 has seen the launch of our new website. Following a long overhaul with more information and new features the new website is now live.

You will find more images from around the school including a virtual tour and Art Gallery, more information on extra curricular activities and much more. But the key change is the addition of a Parents Zone. Although this is not yet visible you will soon be able to log into a secure area on the web to download forms and find out more



about what is happening at the school. We will be sending out more information on this in due course.

Please feel free to browse the new site and offer feedback to the marketing department.

PTA Sparkling Summer Ball

Saturday 9th June 2009

Live Band, Spectacular Dining,
Fine Wine

7pm Champagne Reception

Tickets £75 (£10 discount if booked
before 30th January)

Contact the school office for more
information

Fryer News

Fryer Camping Trip 2008



In September Year 7 Fryer pupils embarked on an overnight camping trip to the New Forest. Despite the wet and muddy conditions the pupils enjoyed the activities which included

Orienteering, Spiders Web Challenge, Blind Trail and putting up a tent blindfolded, camp fire with songs and much more.

Mathilde Bataille said 'At night we had a big camp fire and **Michael Whiteman** sang and played guitar and we all joined in' **William Lewis** said 'My favourite was the Spiders Web Challenge. We had to get through ropes that had small gaps, with a maximum of 2 people helping us, but the hard part was we couldn't touch the rope.'



Sports Festival

Lawrie Sanchez, the former Reading Soccer star who went on to manage Northern Ireland and Fulham, was the welcome guest at our Sports Festival on 4th October. Laurie presented the medals to the joint winners of the 6-a-side under 13s football (Leighton Park Fryer and Dolphin School) and the winners of the under 11s (Dolphin School). There was also a hockey masterclass for 60 pupils from local Junior and Prep Schools, many having their very first taste of the sport and all learnt a great deal and enjoyed the day.



Portsmouth Harbour - Year 8 trip

On 5th November Year 8 students went to on a trip to Portsmouth Harbour. They visited HMS Victory, the Mary Rose and HMS Warrior.

Jessica O'Hara said 'I was amazed by the vast amount of cannons on board the ship and the way the seamen were punished. My favourite deck was the deck where around 500 men stayed. There I learnt about what they did and ate.'

Johathon Buck said 'We looked round the victory museum that had a piece of the original sail of the victory and it explained about admiral Lord Nelson and the battle of Trafalgar'



Adam Day said 'the Mary Rose was amazing how it appeared like it was literally cracked open like a shell. You could see all the decks, as well as any leftover weapons.'

Daniel Earl said 'We went into the Royal Navy's Action Stations which for me was the highlight of the trip. We had a climb on the moving climbing wall and played on the large multi screen helicopter flight simulator amongst other things'

Matthew Horsfall said 'On HMS Victory we learnt about the Barber. The Barber was the surgeon on board. He worked in a place right at the bottom of the ship. He worked there because it was thought that if a cannon ball hit the ship it was the safest part and if he was operating he would be able to continue without much distraction.'

Eco-Fryer



A new Fryer hobby has started this year, run by our Eco-Resident **Sally Pearce** and language teacher **Alexandra Toms**. 'Eco-Fryer' is available to all Year 7 & 8 pupils interested in getting involved in hands-on environmental projects around the Park.

During the first half of the term, the Eco-Fryers were busy researching and designing presentations for a Fryer Collect to raise the profile of an endangered species by encouraging the Fryer pupils to rally round and adopt an animal. The Collect featured two short presentations, one for each chosen animal, and the Fryer pupils will choose which they want to adopt. The results will be revealed very soon!

After Long Leave, our attentions turned to the Eco-Fryers' big project this year - the allotment! We plan to create a vegetable garden in Fryer orchard, giving the pupils and staff a chance to get hands-on around the Park, as well as providing a great outdoor learning environment for many subjects within the curriculum. We already have herbs and salad leaves growing well - hopefully a taste of future success! We've also been looking into natural pest control, and learning how to build 'bug hotels' to attract friendly mini-beasts to our plot to help control the pests when spring rolls around!

Look out for news of how the allotment is developing and what else the Eco-Fryers have been getting up to on the website! If anyone is interested in donating unwanted tools and equipment that we can use on our allotment project - wheelbarrows, trowels, garden canes, pots, even manure - then don't hesitate to contact with Sally (sallypearce@leightonpark.com).

Sixth Form

JBH Speech Competition



Congratulations to **Will Stevens**, winner of this year's JBH Speech Competition, for the crispness and control of his delivery and the coherence of his arguments. For a full report on the competition see page 9.

Facing History:

Trip to Mashirika, 'Africa's Hope'

Esther Briault-Hutter and **Rosie Hopgood** report: The Mashirika trip was an insight into the personal feelings and experiences of Rwandan genocide survivors.

The performance at Greenwich theatre was very moving as they showed their experiences through music, dance and acting. It was a hard hitting show full of emotion which was then followed by a question and answer session with genocide expert Linda Melvern.

Quaker Peace Conference

On 10th October Leighton Park held the third Sixth Form Quaker Peace conference. The focus for the day was "Rwanda: A warning from History" and reflections on the current situation in Darfur. Visiting students from The Abbey and The Holt Schools joined our students in a day of discussion, lectures and debates over the issue of genocide prevention and intervention of the UN. **Phil Dunster** and **Ben Mayer** report: 'The peace conference was thought provoking and inspirational. The film 'Shooting Dogs' was very impressive and gave us a good idea of what it was like to live through the Rwandan genocide, and the speech by Audrey Morgan (Aegis Trust) on the genocide in Darfur and how we can help, was very good. The conference left us reflecting upon the inhumane and unthinkable events of the world today, events which are hard to forget'. The day ended with a presentation by Hilary Pinder talking about the work of Quakers at the UN, a message from Andrew Mitchell MP (Shadow International Development secretary) and Pippa Bleach who gave her personal reflections of Rwandan genocide survivors following her research in the summer.

Russia 2008

During the Autumn Long Leave, a group of 30 teachers and students travelled to Russia for the biennial Sixth Form Cultural trip.

Our trip began early at Heathrow's new Terminal 5 for the 3 hour flight to Moscow. Landing and transferring through Moscow's outskirts was certainly a culture shock. The grim Communist - styled outskirts only highlighted Russia's intriguing history.

Our first full day in Russia led us to the Red Square which was stunning. The gorgeous St. Basil's Cathedral stood at one end, with the Kremlin and Russia's largest shopping centre, 'GUM' on the other. Another highlight of Moscow was the Kremlin, the location of the Russian Parliament.

On Sunday night we took a sleeper train to St.Petersburg. A surreal awakening in St.Petersburg's Finland station was followed by a morning tour of the city. Over the remaining two days we most notably visited the Summer Palace (The former residence of the Russian Tsars),



and the Hermitage museum, which housed over 3 million paintings. The trip was a fascinating insight into Russia's culture and showed us Russia's colourful past. Thanks once again go to Marjory Morris, John Morris, and Karen Gracie-Langrick for such an enjoyable trip.

Jozef Pundek - Upper Sixth



LP becomes an IB World School



After a long wait we are finally able to formally announce that Leighton Park is now officially an IB World School. We will now be able to offer the IB Diploma Programme from September 2009. This is an exciting time for Leighton Park where Sixth Formers will be able to choose between the Diploma and A Levels.

Lottie Dodwell writes 'When looking at the learner profile of the IB, I saw many of the reasons why I had chosen to come to LP. The IB offers many opportunities, and has a core much like the ethos of LP. It encouraged the freedom of choice

and independent style of study that is encouraged already in LP's classrooms. For me, the opportunity to continue such breadth of study is what education should be about, drawing on the areas of study and continuing most of the subjects I currently enjoy.'

Naomi Alderson added 'I am excited about the new things that IB will bring to the school and to our lives, especially through the CAS scheme; which encourages students to be creative, active and to offer our time to charity work.'

The Forgiveness Project: New Jordans Meeting House



'Forgiveness is an inspiring, complex, exasperating subject, which provokes strong feeling in just about everyone.'

Marian Cantecuzino, Founder of the Forgiveness Project

On 7th November a small group of students travelled to the New Jordans Meeting House for a workshop with the 'Forgiveness Project'. We heard from Marian Partington, whose sister was murdered over thirty years ago, but it was only in 1994 (following the unveiling of the murder by Fred and Rosemary West) that Marian found out who killed her sister. It would be difficult not to be moved by Marian's story of how she came to forgive her sister's murderer, and how she wrote to Rosemary West in prison; Marian has come to make something good out of the feelings that remained. Marian now does a lot of work meeting prisoners to help them to recognise both the good and bad in themselves, as well as in others. Throughout the day we took part in various exercises and looked at the 'F Word', an exhibition of many people's stories and relationships with forgiveness. The stories were of traumatic events and loss, yet held a great hope within them, as they were stories of how people coped, and how they choose to help others understand why forgiving is so important. Thank you to **Pippa Bleach** who arranged this thought provoking trip.

By **Lottie Dodwell**

Maths Inspiration 2008

On Tuesday 2nd December, a group of Sixth Form Mathematics Students, attended a mathematical lecture at the Concert Hall in Reading.

David Acheson, author of the acclaimed book '1089 and All That', gave a talk called "Catastrophe, Chocolate and the Electric Guitar". He answered the following questions: Why might a simple piece of curtain wire have grave implications for global warming? When can chocolate be used to prove a theorem? And how can maths help with playing the guitar?

Paul Shepherd, a Research Fellow in the Architecture and Civil Engineering Department at Bath, talked about "The Maths of Sports Stadiums". The Millennium Dome and Arsenal's breathtaking new Emirates Stadium are two of the country's most talked about structures. But did you know that maths has been critical to both?

Finally, in the acclaimed talk "The Maths of Juggling", mathematician Colin Wright, displayed his juggling skills, while at the same time analysing what is going on. He described how he invented a mathematical notation for juggling, and showed how that information was used to invent new routines.

The afternoon provided the students involved with an excellent opportunity to think about where a future in studying mathematics can lead.

PTA Family Quiz Night

Friday 6th February 2009

7.30pm Oakview

£10 Adults, £5 U18

For more information contact
the school office

Arts

Book Ends

Berkshire Book Award launch



Earlier this term, writes librarian Chris Routh, Year 7 attended the launch of this local award, held at Leighton Park for the fourth year running. The event, attended by pupils from fourteen local secondary schools, was an opportunity to review last year's activities and to pre-view some of the titles eligible for this year's award.

Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams' entertaining and informative presentation about their underground fantasies Tunnels and Deeper provided a fantastic start to the selection process. Pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 have been nominating the books that they consider to be 'a good read for 11-14 year olds' and the short-list can be found on the BBA website.

Music Notes



This has been another term of wonderful music making in the department. More and more pupils seem to be getting involved in performing and every concert has again contained high quality and professional performances from Year 7 to Upper Sixth alike. The Evening of Jazz demonstrated the depth of jazz talent throughout the school with wonderful performances from all groups from 'Cotton Buds' through Senior Jazz and Black Jacks.

Next term will see the culmination of all of the hard work for West Side Story in February. I hope that you get your ticket orders in early for what is proving to be a very exciting production.

I was absolutely delighted to see the Main Hall packed to the brim for the recent Christmas Concert. All who attended enjoyed a wonderfully varied and festive occasion complete with mince pies.

By Rosemary Scales



Senior Book Club

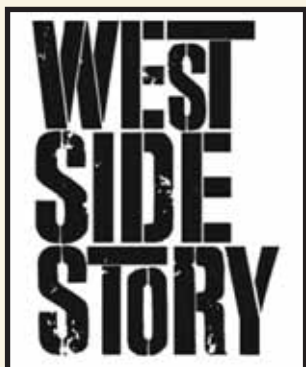
This has been an exciting and busy term for the Senior Book Club, writes librarian Chris Routh.

Earlier this term, we were initiated into the world of forensic science by Malcom Rose, author of Traces, the fantasy crime series, at the Reading Crime Writers Festival. We also attended two author events organised by Get Reading Reading.

The group was selected to write a web diary while reading the short-list for the Teenage Book Award. We couldn't believe our luck when we heard that we had won 3 tickets to attend the award ceremony at Penguin Books, London. The Book Club was delighted that 'The knife of never letting go' by

Patrick Ness was awarded the prize, as this was also our favourite.

More recently, we were invited to form a Teenage Readers group by Chicken House publishers. We are currently involved in reading and commenting on several manuscripts which are still going through the editing process, and will also be involved in responding to relevant art-work and publicity.



Since September, a group of 35 students have been involved on a great adventure to stage "West Side Story." 2008 marks the show's 50th anniversary so it seems particularly appropriate that LP is bringing it to life. The show is full of wonderful melodies such as "America", "Maria" and "Tonight". It also demands strong acting from all the cast and everybody has been challenged by the movement required to make the show work. The musical demands on the orchestra are great and the whole undertaking can be daunting for even a professional cast and crew. **Rosemary Scales** and **Geraint Thomas** are delighted with the hard work and committed attitude of the cast, orchestra and stage crew. We hope you will come to one of the performances on Feb. 11th, 12th and 13th. Tickets will be available in the new year.



Photo by Anna Mitchell, Artist in Residence

Ian House, former Head of English at LP, who judged the JBH Speech Competition.

JBH

It may not be the world's best-known speech competition but it may well be the most unusual. And nerve-wrackingly entertaining. And endlessly lively. And intellectual.

The JBH Speech Competition is named after the School's first chairman of governors, Jonathan Backhouse Hodgkin, who had the idea for a speech competition with heckling as its central component from seeing some of the debates in Parliament in the nineteenth century. He started the competition in 1914.

The invigorating war with words has been going on ever since.

On 26 November the latest competition took place. **Lottie Dodwell** opened with a well-researched, well-argued plea for a vegetarian future. Then **Will Stevens** argued that 'The terrorists have won' on the grounds that Western governments have responded to the threat by attacking the liberties of the

person in the street. Then **Sarah-Jambert Gray** put forward the proposition that we are now living in a woman's world.

Last year's co-winner **Naomi Alderson** spoke fourth on the proposition that crime is a natural response to an unjust society. She was followed by **Clea Heaton** who very originally turned to music which she held to be the most popular, most inspirational and most universal language.

The heckling was as vigorous and as good-humoured as ever and all the speakers held up to the barrage very well. Why do people go in for this event? Foolhardiness? We prefer to call it bravery and the sense of achievement and empowerment that standing up to and even dominating the whole school can bring. Especial congratulations to **Will Stevens**, this year's winner, for the crispness and control of his delivery and the coherency of his arguments.

High voltage stuff - and also highly intelligent. All speeches were very well-constructed and led to great debate and lively exchanges. We already have two speakers for next year - both in the current Year Ten.

Kristian Callaghan

in Pune, India for Commonwealth Youth Games



In October 2008 **Kristian** represented England at the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games in Shooting.

Kristian writes: 'As my turn to compete approached there was much support from other Team England members. My first competition match was against an Australian and after an unbelievably close contest I won by just one point! Later the same day I reached the final round but slipped to 5th place overall. This was disappointing but having time with my parents to visit other events was a fair consolation.'

The closing ceremony on 18th October was the final chapter in a small window of time that has left me with memories, acquaintances and sporting experiences to last a life time.'

A huge congratulations goes to Kristian for this amazing achievement. It must have been a truly wonderful experience.

Hockey Champions

The Year 8 'A' team reached the semi-finals of the 'Reading Schools Mini-Hockey League', coming 4th in the Table. They beat Abbey 5-0 in the semi-finals then went onto beat Kendrick 3-1 in the Final. The girls become Reading School Mini-hockey League Champions for the 3rd time in the shield's 13 year history.

Interestingly, the last time Leighton Park won the shield was when the girls who are now in the U6th were in Year 8.

Congratulations to all the girls: **Helen Kirton, Jess Biggs, Honey Elias,**



Maya Wilson, Jess Andrew, Nicole Burns and Jess O'Hara

Rugby

The 1st XV capped a tremendous turnaround in its season by getting to the final of the Super Six Competition.

The final was to be played against Ranelagh who had beaten us 24 - 15 in September. Maybe it was the pressure of the occasion or just poor concentration, but after 20 mins we were losing 14 - 0.

Indeed, the LP support really played its part urging their team on and

giving them that extra boost in the quest for a winning score. They were not to be disappointed. With minutes to go a forward drive went through six or seven close phases before a touchdown close to the posts. With a successful conversion Leighton Park was in the lead for the first time in the match, 21 - 17.

The final whistle signalled scenes of great celebration for a group of players who had shown such great character. Though on a technicality the shield finally went to Ranelagh.



New Sports kit

The new Leighton Park sports kit is now available to buy online. Please either visit our website for more information or visit:

www.leightonpark.kukrisports.com

60th Anniversary



Members of the undefeated 1948 Leighton Park School Rugby 1st XV celebrated their 60th Anniversary reunion on 15th November, with a special Rugby 7s competition joined by 30 more Old Leightonians. **John Dunston** said '*Just as the team was admired in 1948 for their rugby prowess, we admire them today for the efforts they have made to come to this reunion. We are proud of them all.*'

Individual Achievements



Lizzie Hearn and Aliena Archer have been selected to play for Berkshire Girls U18 Rugby this season.

Jovontae Catlin has attended the second round of trials for the U15 Berkshire Girls Hockey Squad.

Jessica Biggs has been involved in the first round of trials for the U13 Berkshire Cricket Squad. Good luck to them both.

Theo maters-Waage has spent the term working through trials and attending squad training camps in preparation for the up coming fixtures with the Berkshire U.15 rugby squad.



Ryan Bright has spent the term working through trials and attending squad training camps in preparation for the up coming fixtures with the Berkshire U.14 rugby squad.



Stephen Bradbury has gained a place on the Cycling elite squad.

Mitchell Gutteridge has been a part of the Reading FC Youth Academy over the last two years and this Autumn has been a regular in the Reading FC U.14 squad and has played in matches against Arsenal and Chelsea, to name a few!



House Rugby

The annual House Rugby 7's Competition was as close as ever this year in each age group and, as importantly, the quality of the rugby on show was a credit to all who took part.

Field House emerged as winners of both the Junior and Senior competitions and are this year's House Rugby Champions.

House Road-Relay Competition

This was held earlier in the term when a lighter evening was guaranteed. We have a number of very good middle distance runners in the school and some impressive times were clocked up in both competitions.

In managing the 'double' of winning both the Junior and Senior events Field House are this year's House Road Relay champions.

Fryer Girls

Fryer girls have had a busy term. the Year 8's winning the Reading Schools Mini-Hockey League and also performing well in netball. The U12's drew 2-2 in hockey with LVS and beat Bearwood College 7-4 in netball. The U13's drew 0-0 with LVS in hockey and the A team beat Kennet 8-0, and the B team won 1-0. They have also beaten Bearwood College in netball 11-3 but lost both games against Dolphin, 24-10 then 12-11.

House Hockey

This provided an excellent afternoon of hockey. All teams and players played with great passion and commitment, those not playing supported and cheered and those on the field played with 100% effort. A great afternoon.

School House won the Senior competition with Grove in second place. Reckitt won the Junior competition with Grove in Second place.

Basketball

The Senior House Basketball Tournament finished this term with Grove winning against Field House in the final match.

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



India 2008



In August 2008 a group of students went on a trip to India as part of a cultural and charity expedition.

Amelia Glynn, Upper Sixth, writes 'When I heard about Leighton Park's expedition to India, I leapt at the chance. For me the trip was about more than just climbing a 6150m mountain, it was about exploring different and varying regions of India. The trip fulfilled all my expectations and more; I learnt about the ancient cultures in the mountains and Fatipur Sikri and the more modern kind in Agra and Delhi'

Edward Ireland, Upper Sixth, writes 'The scenery we were walking in was

beyond imagination... we saw marmots, a golden eagle, blue sheep and Tibetan Argali (Deer). The expedition for me let me see what I could do and let me move away from my normal comfort zone. The entire expedition encompassed Leighton Park's values, we all cared for one another and we helped the Sherpas as much as we could. We also installed a new water butt for a local school and built them a path from the dormitories to their shower block. The expedition to India was a phenomenal experience'.



A Fond Farewell

We would like to say a goodbye and good luck to staff that have left us this term. **David Smith** (Geography), and **Jean Taylor** (Cleaner - Grove House) all leave us this term.

Jean Taylor joined the team at Grove House almost 33 years ago when there were 24 members of the domestic staff. She was, and still is, a very caring person whose quiet sense of humour and lively, but sensible, personality meant that she was very well liked in Grove and was popular with both staff and pupils.

She has seen a lot of school history go by in the House having worked with 5 Housemasters, 7 matrons, many House staff and pupils too numerous to mention. Life was very different when she started and she was witness to girls becoming part of Grove for the first time.

Jean you will be sorely missed but we wish you an enjoyable and busy retirement.

Your friends at Grove.

Save the Planet

The Save the Planet group are helping the school to reach the Eco Schools Silver Award, which we have nearly achieved, and will continue to work towards the prestigious Green Flag Award. They are focusing on further investigating and reducing energy usage around the school through awareness and by looking into more efficient lighting controls. Recycling is another subject the students will be getting involved with; trying to address any problems with the way recycling is currently working around the school. They are also busy planning a 'Love Our Trees' campaign to raise the profile of the trees in our beautiful Park, with fun activities for students and houses to get involved in; and after Christmas they will be getting their wellies on and helping the Eco-Fryers with the allotment! Keep up to date with the Save the Planet group and their campaigns on the website!

Students dress for bed on 'Mufti' Day



On Friday 6th November the normally smart scene of pupils going about their school day was greeted with dressing gowns, brightly coloured clothing and cuddly bears. The students raised approx £490 for the Reading Single Homeless Project.

