

# the park

Summer 2009

the Leighton Park School newsletter



**Oscar-Winning Fryer Festival**  
**Exam Results Roundup**  
**New Head of Sixth Form**

# Headlines



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be writing this column once again for The Park, following my sabbatical in the spring term.

I want to begin by reiterating my thanks to the Governors for allowing me that opportunity, which enabled me to take up a Farmington Fellowship and a visiting Fellowship

at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. During the term, I was researching into the period of the German Enlightenment, with special reference to living with "the other". It was a most stimulating and refreshing time for me, though a real pleasure to be back at LP once again at the start of the summer term.

My other thanks go very warmly to Elizabeth Thomas, who was Acting Head for the spring term, and to other senior colleagues who took on temporary additional responsibilities to cover my absence. The fact that the term went so well is a tribute to their professionalism and talent. I hope they, too, enjoyed their unusual term.

The summer term was once again packed with a range of activity both

astonishing and impressive, of which this Newsletter will give a flavour. Highlights included the outstanding production at this year's hugely enjoyable Fryer Festival; a bigger than ever Music for a Summer's Evening in glorious, idyllic weather; and another marvellous Summer Ball organised by the Parents' Association. But so much else happened too, not least preparation for those public examinations, on which due congratulations appear opposite.

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a good summer holiday, and we look forward to the year ahead with a pupil roll at least as strong as last year, itself a tribute to all that Leighton Park continues to offer.

**JOHN DUNSTON**  
Head

## Important Dates

Fri 11th / Sat 12th Sept  
Sun 13th Sept 7.30pm  
Fri 18th Sept 7.00pm  
Sat 3rd Oct  
Mon 5th Oct  
Wed 7th Oct 7.15pm  
Fri 9th Oct  
Sun 11th Oct 7.30pm  
Wed 14th Oct 7.15pm  
Fri 16th Oct 4.15pm -  
1st Nov 6.00pm  
Fri 6th Nov 6.00pm  
Sun 8th Nov 7.30pm

Mon 9th Nov 7.00pm  
Wed 18th Nov 7.15pm  
Thurs 26th Nov 7.15pm  
Wed 2nd Dec 7.15pm  
Mon 7th Dec 6.30pm  
Sun 6th Dec 7.00pm  
Fri 11th Dec

Fryer Camping Trip  
Evening Meeting: speaker John Dunston  
Newcomers Evening (Year 7-11)  
Annual Open Morning  
Quaker Schools Week  
Soloists Concert  
Sixth Form Peace Conference  
Evening Meeting: speaker Anya Whiteside  
Ensembles Concert  
Long Leave

PTA Fireworks Evening  
Evening Meeting: speaker Father John Thackray  
New Horizons - Introduction to Sixth Form  
An Evening of Jazz  
JBH Speech Competition  
Christmas Concert  
ReachOut Christmas Charity Event  
Christmas Evening Meeting  
End of Term

## Inside

**News**  
page three

**Fryer**

pages four & five

**Sixth Form**  
page six and seven

**Arts**

pages eight and nine

**Sports**

pages ten and eleven

**More News**  
page twelve

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

# Exam Results

Once again LP students have achieved well at both A Level and GCSE. Congratulations go to all our students and staff on their hard work and excellent results.

A Level students have achieved a 98.5% pass rate, resulting in a pass rate of over 98% for the seventh year running. No less than 46% of all A Level results were grade A, up 3% on last year, with 70% of all pupils' grades being A/B.

No less than 77% of the maths students achieved grade A or B (with nearly half of the year taking the subject). There were 100% pass rates at A/B in Art and Design, Chinese, Design Technology, French, German, Music, Music, Russian and Spanish.

Once again students achieved an average of 3 passes each and nearly a quarter of the students gained 3 or more A grades. **Regina Lazarenko** and **Huan Hue Lee** both achieved an impressive 4As and **Joseph Leung** and **E-Rue Peng** both gained 4 A Level passes with 3As.



## John Allinson



It was truly the end of an era. When John Allinson retired at the end of the summer term, after 35 years, we knew that a unique part of the school's history was completed at the same time.

Here are some facts: John taught modern languages; he had been Master i/c Cricket and a beloved Housemaster of School House; he created the Nantes exchange; he oversaw the school's good causes; and he was for a long time the school's prime link with Old Leightonians.

But behind those facts, there were the innumerable moments that remain

The following 12 students each gained 3 A grades: **Ben Angwin, Lizzy Benedikz, Alistair Cobbold, Rahul Desousa, Isobel Dodds, Daniel Galli, Ellen Green, Matthew Jones, Matthew Radford, Matt Stawarz, Julia Steinhardt** and **Sam Sturge**.



At GCSE 97% of pupils gained 5 or more passes at A\*-C. 43% of all grades were A\*/A, and 17% A\* alone. There was a 100% pass rate at grades A\* - C in no less than twelve subjects.

Naomi Alderson achieved ten A\* grades, and with nine or more A\*/A grades were **Sarah Boulding, Lucy Dodds, Charlotte Dodwell, Christopher Kimbell, Eleanor Stanley, Klarissa Stawarz, Joshua Lambert** and **Josie Copeland**.

Once again, our A Level results show that our scientists, mathematicians and linguists produce excellent results year in, year out. But so do our students of all subjects.

unforgettable. All who saw them will remember his portrayals of Elvis, which typified John's readiness to undertake the impossible, the absurd, the unexpected, in order to generate happiness and laughter.

John's gentleness and thoughtfulness were among the qualities that exemplified the very Quaker values that make Leighton Park what it is. He worked with and subtly educated four Heads. He leaves a successful Old Leightonians organisation. John's final Collect was aptly described as "a masterpiece of comic timing": this was a quality that ran through John's life and work at LP, reflecting his great gift of humour that helped so many through good times and bad. In many ways, John Allinson was Leighton Park. We will miss him. Greatly, and always.

**JOHN DUNSTON**  
Head

We are just as delighted with the success of our GCSE pupils. Once again they have dispelled the myth regarding girls' achievements and single sex schools. The results clearly show that girls in a co-educational environment can achieve the highest levels of success. Leighton Park girls achieved an overall A\*-C pass rate of 99.5%"

## LP wins Ancient History Award

Despite recent reports in the news about declines in students taking History, Leighton Park School has won 'The Good Schools Guide' award for the best results at A Level achieved by girls taking Ancient History at an English independent school.

The Good Schools Guide award is based on the data underlying the post-16 performance table results for the three years 2006, 2007 and 2008 combined, and in particular on the popularity of each subject relative to similar schools, and of the success that pupils achieve relative to the other examinations that they take. The aim is to highlight excellent teaching in individual subjects. Well done everyone!

## Staff News

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

**John Allinson, Caroline Beard, Jessica Byrne, Paul Cohen, Ken Lovesy, Gillian MacDonald, Anna Mitchell, Marjory Morris, Liana Smith** and **Alex Toms**.

We would also like to welcome the following staff who join us in the autumn term:

**Lydia Allen** (Sports Resident, Girls), **Angela Bartram** (Alumni Relations), **Isabelle Bataille** (Modern Languages), **Ben Buist** (Artist in Residence), **Sarah Ledger** (Modern Languages), **Janet Mulvihill** (Matron Field House), **Nicola Phillips** (English), **Jonathan Porter-Hughes** (English), **Laura Routh** (Drama/Dance), **Katrina Stewart** (Gap Student in Fryer House), **Harrison Straw** (Sports Resident, Boys) and **Ken Sullivan** (Head of Sixth Form, Biology)

# Fryer News

## Adventure Training



In June Year 8 embarked on their adventure training expedition to Pembrokeshire. They spent the 4 days in the activity centre in Wales where they were blessed with some of the best weather of this summer.

**Jessica O'Hara** added: We did many activities most of them water related. My favourite activity has to be coasteering. In coasteering you walk/climb across the cliffs without harnesses. On the route we had to take there were points where we were allowed to jump off the cliff into the sea. At first it was difficult to jump into a freezing cold sea with jelly-fish and masses of seaweed, but I found it was a wonderful experience where I did things I would have never have thought of doing. I held a moon jellyfish the size of my palm, stroked a blue lobster and waded through beds of long seaweed that twisted round your legs as you swam by.

We also went sea-kayaking, speed boating, raft building, sailing, canoeing and did low rope which was the only dry land activity.

I am very glad we went and it was an amazing experience that took a lot of energy but was thoroughly enjoyed.

## Monkey World

On Saturday 6th June a group of Year 8 pupils visited Monkey World in Dorset. The trip was organised as a thank you, and reward for the students in Pippa's tutor group who had been consistently warm, friendly, and hardworking over the last two years.

The students were able to look at the ape conservation work carried out by Monkey World for apes and monkeys,

which have been rescued from awful conditions around the world.

**Helen Kirton** added: We spent most the day looking at all the different types of monkeys. We also listened to a lady speak about the Orangutans which was very interesting. My favourite part was the Orangutan who had some trousers over its head.

The Year 8 group finished the day by adopting a baby Orangutan called Joly.

## Triathlon



The Annual Fryer Triathlon is one of the year's highlights and helps to raise money for the 'Make

a Wish Foundation'. Pupils either complete the whole event by themselves or work in teams.

**Simon Terry** adds: I took part in a small team in which I did the cycling. This was really fun and slightly hard work on the rough up hill terrain. I would really recommend it to anyone as it gives you a reason to keep going when you're running, swimming or cycling.

## Milestones

On 23rd April Year 8 went on a History trip to Basing House and Milestones. The students were able to explore the



Victorian and Industrial revolutionary town while answering a series of questions as they went.

**Ben Peers** added: The first place I went was to the Victorian children's area which was

focused on a matchboy and children's health. I also went to the gypsy area where Tom and I sat in the tent.

## EcoFryer win B&Q Grant

Year 7 and 8 students have won a grant from B&Q as part of the 'One Planet Living Grant Scheme' run by the DIY store. The grant is aimed at helping groups and organisations to do something to help the environment by growing more plants and vegetables.

You will have read in past issues of The Park that the students are developing the historic allotment that used to thrive on site. The allotment will be split into



two in order to create an area for teaching, as well as a space for growing produce that will be used in the Fryer House kitchen.

# Fryer Festival



This year's Fryer Festival, held on 20th June, was themed 'Oscars and Films'. The show was outstanding as students gave award-winning performances.

The programme included 'One Legged Tarzan', 'The Wizard of Oz', 'Forrest Gump', 'Star Wars', 'The tribute to Oscar' and 'Harry Potter'. All in all it was a magical event, which was then followed by a buffet lunch at Oakview.

**Shreyas Narayanasamy** added: The dancers did a brilliant job. It was really entertaining and it was the first scene in the programme too.... We came to the conclusion that this had been the best Fryer Festival ever!

# Sixth Form

## Leavers' Awards

## New Head of Sixth Form



Leavers' Collect on May 15th marked the end of the Upper Sixth's time at LP. With emotional and remarkable ministry, students and staff reflected on their time here. We wish all our students every success and joy in the next stage of their education and thank them for their contribution to the community.

The annual awards for outstanding achievement and contribution to the life of the school were also presented:

The Old Leightonian and W H Scarborough Awards were presented to **Ellen Green** and **Purna Venkatesan-Ogin** and **Edward Ireland** respectively by Old Leightonian Phil Samuels (Chairman of the OL Awards Panel).

Chris Straw and James Gilmore visited the school to present the Jorge Hortal Award to **Lizzie Hearn**.

A special award for contribution to music at the school was presented to **Clea Heaton**.

**Angus Lai** was the winner of the Paul Dowdell Award for Art.

Leavers' Collect afforded the opportunity to thank the Head Boy and Girl, their deputies and the whole of the Prefect team for all their hard work. The new Prefect team was also announced and has now started its duties.



We are delighted to welcome Ken Sullivan to Leighton Park as the new Head of Sixth Form. Ken, his wife Catherine and their three children, have moved on to the Park and will be living in The Crescent.

Ken Sullivan comes to us from Rossall School in Lancashire, where he was Head of Middle School and had previously been Head of Science. He also has experience of the International Baccalaureate through his earlier teaching posts in Greece and Thailand. He has published educational articles in various journals, and written both poetry and a children's novel.

We warmly welcome Ken and his family to the LP community.

## Biology Field Trip

The biodiversity of the Pembrokeshire coast brought studies to life...

A Level Biologists gained first hand experience of biodiversity, studying the plant and animal life and the ecosystems on which they depend of the Pembrokeshire coast. Staying at the Orielton Field Centre, the group made studies of sand dunes, explored rock pools, as well as appreciating the glorious coastline, and of course, enjoying spending time on the beach.



# School Prefects

Congratulations to **Phil Dunster** and **Emma Lucas** who have been appointed Head Boy and Head Girl and **Ben Mayer** and **Amber Wilson** as their deputies.

Congratulations also go to the following who are appointed prefects **Azrin Adnan, Eliza Bennett, Esther Briault-Hutter, Gregor Dickie, Eleonora D'Ottavi, Naomi Dunston, Andrew Dyson, Saxby Fitzjohn, Jordan Gage, Ben Heath, Rosie Hopgood, Morwenna Hull, Coco Kwok, Laurence Mallam, Alice Martineau, Fran Mead, Naveen Pillai, Rahman Shukri, Will Stevens, Emily Stubbs, Sophie Wallington, Chris Wheeler, Ed Williams and Jane Zhang.** We wish them all a successful year.

# New Horizons



# Clarins Makeover and Photoshoot

On Friday 24th April the Upper Sixth were treated to a Clarins makeover and photo shoot. See below a selection of photos from the day:



The popular New Horizons Sixth Form Induction Programme was blessed with the wonderful summer weather that we experienced in July. We were delighted that so many students were able to attend this year to join in and start to make new friends.

The three days of activities aimed to encourage team-building, gave students the chance to learn new skills, sampling chosen A level subjects and tutorial style teaching. The event was rounded off with the Horizons Ball.

# Arts

## Music Notes

It was another busy term in the music department. Here are some of the highlights and personal achievements:

### Chris Wheeler and Ed Williams

(Lower Sixth) have been successful in winning the Battle of the Bands competition at Lodden Valley Leisure Centre with their band The Innocent. Seven bands were involved and they won the prize of a day in a recording studio.

**David Wallace** (Year 9) has been working hard this last year with the Taplow Youth Choir; he won his place after rigorous auditions last summer. During the year he has performed in many venues, including at the School Prom at the Royal Albert Hall, they went through all the heats and won the BBC Radio 3 Youth Choir of the Year in November. In Easter David travelled to Tallinn, Estonia, to take part in the prestigious International Choral Festival competing against top choirs from across Europe. Huge congratulations to David and we hope he continues to grow and develop within the Choir.

### Soloists Concert

The 'Soloists Concert' was a small and select event featuring yet more excellent performances from our pupils. There was a wide range of music on display from Vivaldi and Rimsky-Korsadov to Weill and Clapton and every year group in the school was represented.

### Ensembles Concert

The 'Ensembles Concert' featured a myriad of performers and pieces. All of the regular departmental ensembles performed plus some extra vocal duos and trios and the debut of Blazing Penguins! Again, the variety of music performed was immense.

### Music Activities

All activities welcome new members and I would be delighted to hear from any pupils interested in participating in a hobby in the autumn term. Groups include:

## Book news

### Update from last term ...

The World Day Book Shop raised £300 commission, which has now been sent to Book Aid International.

Senior Book Club enjoyed an end of term trip to the British Library for the World of Knowledge workshop, followed by a visit to the Sherlock Holmes museum.

### Fryer Book Club

The Book Club enjoyed exploring the world of Michelle Paver's Chronicles of Ancient Darkness. Set amongst the imagined tribes of the north during the Stone Age, the books provided plenty of scope for some exciting activities including animal identification and tracking, communicating 'stone age style' with the help of the game Cro-magnon and picnicking in a tepee. The highlight of the term was a visit to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, where students learnt about wolves in literature and had an opportunity to observe the wolf packs that helped to inspire and inform Michelle Paver, who is also a patron of the Trust. Later in the term, Helen Taylor talked to the group about some of the books she read as a teenager, which inspired her own interest in biology, including Willard Price's action-packed adventure stories and The Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean M Auel, which is also set in prehistoric times.

### Senior Book Club

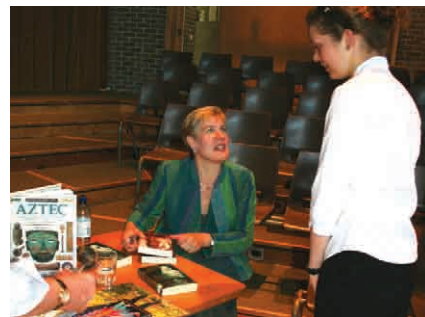
As part of the shadowing process for the Carnegie Award, members of the Senior Book Club heard Patrick Ness, one of the short-listed authors, talk about his books at the Education Library Service. They also attended the Carnegie Conference at Denefield

Senior Choir, Fryer Voices, String Orchestra, String Quartet, Numerous Jazz groups, Brass Group, Orchestra, Beats Workin', Wind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Chamber Winds, Sonic Art and Classical Guitar Group.

### Friends of Leighton Park Music

Many thanks to all of you who have already signed up to become a

Secondary school, where groups from four local schools discussed and created presentations about all seven of the short-listed books.



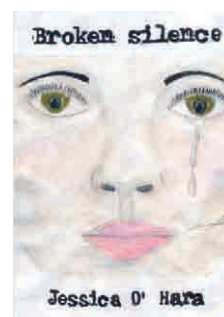
### Tanya Landman

In June, author Tanya Landman, spent the day in school, talking to Years 7, 8 and 9 about her writing, including the award winning historical novels Apache Girl Warrior and The Goldsmith's Daughter. She also talked to a small group of parents and school librarians in the evening about the intriguing idea that 'Books are dangerous'!

### Book Cover Competition

**Jessica O'Hara** (Year 8) has won second prize in the Key Stage 3 category of this year's Book Cover Competition

which is organised by the Berkshire Education Library Service. Over 900 entries were received for the competition making Jessica's achievement very impressive. Well done Jessica!



### 'Friend of Leighton Park Music'.

We are always looking for more parents to join this mainly parent group who would be interested in supporting the Music Department in a whole variety of ways. To find out more please email [friendsoflpmusic@leightonpark.com](mailto:friendsoflpmusic@leightonpark.com).

# Music for a Summer's Evening



The last Saturday of term saw the culmination of yet another busy musical year, when all of the department's ensembles performed at the annual Music for a Summer's Evening event. Threatened by rain, as it pounded the surrounding areas, remarkably, Leighton Park stayed completely dry. We were very pleased and relieved when the sun continued to shine throughout the entire evening as our audience unpacked their picnics and queued at the PTA Barbeque.

It was a wonderful evening of music with performances from the Senior Choir, Fryer Voices, String groups, numerous jazz

ensembles, Orchestra, wind ensembles, Brass Group, Chamber Winds, Beats Workin' plus a new song writing duo of **Hal Orchard** and **Elysia Newton** and a wonderful vocal solo by **Josie Copland**.

The evening also featured the official launch of the mainly parental support group Friends of Leighton Park Music. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this a very special evening in the music department calendar.

Rosemary Scales

## House Music

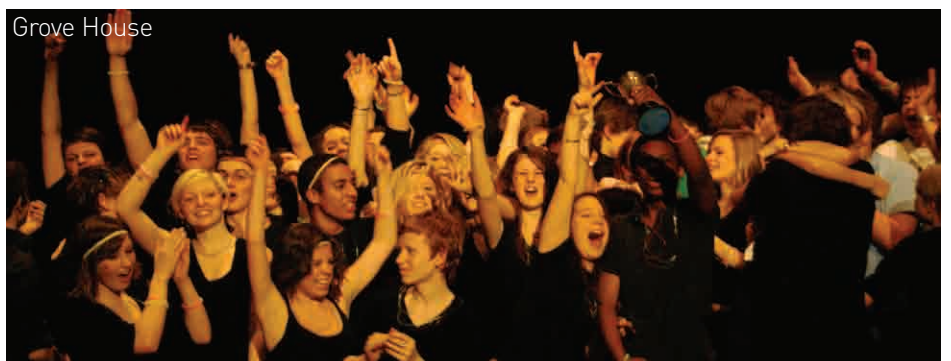
The annual House Music competition took place on 25th March. Field House staunchly defended their title and after a close run evening of fantastic music-making, had to relinquish their title to Grove House. I hope that you managed to join us to enjoy another highly energetic and vibrant evening of music-making.

Adjudicators this year were: Jonathan Veira (International Opera Singer), John Moores (session musician, composer, producer and music technology consultant) and Terl Bryant (a drummer and percussionist).

Reckitt House



Grove House



# Sport

## Tennis

The Senior Singles Championship final was between **James Barratt** (U6) and **Joe Leung** (U6) who has won this match to complete his record of winning every singles tournament since Year 9!

The Junior Singles Championship final was between **Jake Elias** (Year 10) and **Ross Batten** (Year 9) with Ross finishing with the title.

The Junior House Competition was jointly won by Grove and School and the Senior competition by Field and Reckitt.

## Cricket

The term's Cricket has seen some outstanding individual performances as well as a successful cricket week which saw many of our younger players gaining experience against older opposition.

**Alex Hitchens** became the first Year 7 player to score a 50 and take 5 wickets in a match for nearly 20 years, **Jake Elias** (Year 10) scored a match winning century against Reading School and **James Barratt** (U6) scored a match winning 64 not out against XL Club.

The Senior House competition proved to be a complex one for scoring this year, Field lost to School, School lost to Grove, Grove lost to Field and Reckitt lost to everyone! The result was a joint first to School, Grove and Field with Reckitt taking fourth place.

Following her recent successes she has also been asked to compete at the UK School Games in Cardiff on the 5th and 6th September.

**Lizzie Hearn** (U6) and **Ally Archer** (U6) both played for Reading and Berkshire in Rugby. Both Lizzie and Ali were selected for the National Training Squad (unfortunately Ali cannot take up the opportunity due to returning to Malaysia).

**Mitch Gutteridge** (Year 9) has captained the Berkshire U14 team and has now been selected for the Reading FC Academy for the next two years.

**Jake Elias** (Year 10) has been selected for the Berkshire U15 and U16 Cricket squads.

**Theo Masters-Waage** (Year 10) is following the Berkshire U16 Rugby programme.

**James Tanner** (Year 7) is starting out on his county Rugby career with Oxfordshire trials.

**Ellie Mead** (Year 7) has been selected for the Reading Schools Athletics Team at the Berkshire U13 Championships following her high jump performance at the last Reading Schools championships.

## Fryer Shield

The Fryer Shield is awarded to the house which wins the most house competitions during the year. For 2008/2009 Cadbury and Bournville each had three wins going into the last event of the year - The Rounders competition. In winning the Rounders by just half a rounder Cadbury are this year's Fryer House Champions.



## Richard Coleman Shield

The final points for this inter house competition were: Field 79, Grove 58, Reckitt 47 and School 45. Well done Field House.



## In Brief

**Ben Peers** (Year 9) has been selected for the Bucks U14 Hockey Team beating his own cross country record by 6 seconds.

**Stephen Bradbury** (Year 10) continues to thrive in the world of Cycling and has been selected for the Central England Cycling team for the UK School Games in September.

In June **Josh Stack** (Year 9) completed the 60 mile London to Brighton Cycle ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

In June **Jessica Biggs** (Year 8) completed the Three Counties Cycle Ride - she completed the ride in an impressive 4 and a half hours. She has also been selected for the U15 Berkshire Cricket Team.

**Coral Stewart** (L6) came 9th in the U19 Hammer with a throw of 37.90m. A fantastic achievement as she will be able to compete in the same age group again next year.

**Funto Fabunmi-Alade** (Year 10) is ranked 5th in the UK at U17 level and she is also in the top 10 target group for gaining under 24.7secs. She also has the 49th fastest recorded time from all athletes in all age groups this season.

# Individual Achievements



**JOE LEUNG**

(U6) won the Senior Boys Singles Championship in Tennis.



**JAMES BARRATT**

(U6) won the William Denselow Cup for the Cricketer of the Year. James also won this trophy back in 2007.



**TOM MINTER**

(Year 8) won the Fryer Boys Individual Athletics Championship. Tom was unbeaten in 800m and 1500m races this summer.



**ROSS BATTEN**

(Year 9) won the Junior Boys Singles Championship in Tennis. Ross also won the U16 Singles competition earlier in the term.



**THEO MASTERS-WAAGE**

(Year 10) won the Junior Boys Individual Athletics Championship.



**BEN MAYER**

(L6) won the Senior Boys Athletics Championship.

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



**NICOLE BURNS** (Year 8) and **JESSICA O'HARA** (Year 8) are joint winners of the Fryer Girls Individual Athletics Championship.



**AMY SIMMONS** (U6) won the Senior Girls Athletics Championship for the second year running.

## Bronze D of E



2009 has seen the greatest number of Leighton Park pupils attempting and completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award!

On a beautifully sunny Saturday morning, the hikers gathered their enthusiasm and headed to the New Forest for their final assessed expedition. After meeting their assessors at the start points, the five groups headed off for their first day's walk, covering 15 kilometres before arriving at the campsite.

Upon arrival, they set up camp efficiently and began cooking their evening meals, under the careful watch of their assessors. After running around the campsite for a while (where did that energy come from?!) they settled around the campfire for a bit of downtime before bed.

After a good night's sleep, the teams surpassed expectations by packing up camp, cooking breakfast, and being ready to go before their assessors even arrived at camp!

In the hot weather, the walkers worked hard to stay hydrated and keep their spirits high as they completed another 15 kilometre route. However, their hard work was rewarded as they all reached the finish point, where the minibuses were waiting to take them home for a well deserved rest. A fantastic achievement, well done to all!

## Woodbrooke



On 14-16 June, with their AS exams over, a group of ten Lower Sixth students travelled with

Robert Hughes to Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. Standing in the shadow of George Cadbury's historic chocolate factory in Bournville we joined the gathering of Quaker schools that was taking place there.

When we reflected in the Woodbrooke dining hall before the marshmallow-fuelled bonfire-party on the last night of our conference, we realised that, although we had come from diverse religious, and non-religious, backgrounds, and had all had different experiences, there were important aspects which we have shared during our time together. Whether we were dancing a perspiration-filled ceilidh, or discussing the key foundations on which Quakerism is formed we were all struck by the great sense of warmth and friendship which developed so easily amongst us. The supportive atmosphere of the Meetings for Worship and the silences throughout the day contributed towards this feeling enormously.

We hope to continue our friendships and take with us many aspects we have learnt about Quakerism through the Quaker Pilgrimage, the Joint Choirs trip, and of course Facebook! We hope we can all promote inter-school relationships as our Gathering was such a success.

**Naomi Dunston** - Lower Sixth

## PTA Ball



This year's PTA Ball was held on a rather cool June evening. Oakview went through an amazing transformation thanks to the design eye of Deborah Heath. With fabrics draping the room, candles glistening and sparkles galore, it became a shimmering stage for the event. The menu, created and prepared by our very own LP chef Ricky Adlington, was a Michelin quality delight. The entertainment was once again provided by the Crazies with a little help late in the evening by some energised, and very talented, LP guests!! Everyone had a fantastic time, and we were able to raise an impressive sum for Ripple Africa.

Many thanks to everyone who helped organise this event. We're already in planning stage for the next Ball. If you missed this year, don't make the same mistake and please join us for the next. You truly will have a wonderful time.

## Charity Work



A lot of effort has gone into raising money for our many charities this year. We have rounded the year off with an Austerity lunch, mufti day and 'traditional sports hour' to raise money for Ripple Africa, and held a pink day to support Cancer Research UK.

The staff have also done their bit by taking part in the Relay for Life, a 24hour relay walk around Reading Rugby club in Sonning.

## PTA Fireworks

**Friday 6th  
November 2009  
Tickets will be on sale  
in the autumn term.**

The park is printed on paper made from 100% recycled fibres sourced entirely from post consumer waste.