

WITTH

Achievement

VALUES • CHARACTER • COMMUNITY

The Park | Spring 2019

This is a place

to encase irrepressible sound
and envelop intricate silence,
where draped shapes sleep, awaiting skilful
hands to draw sonorous air from their curves
and intimate stories curl their way
around the hundreds gathered to receive them.

This is a place that is a point of departure,
where inspiration flies on exhaled breath

to escape these walls and
vapour-trail across the stars.

Damon Young, Drama teacher
in commemoration of the opening
of the Michael Malnick Centre



Leighton Park
School

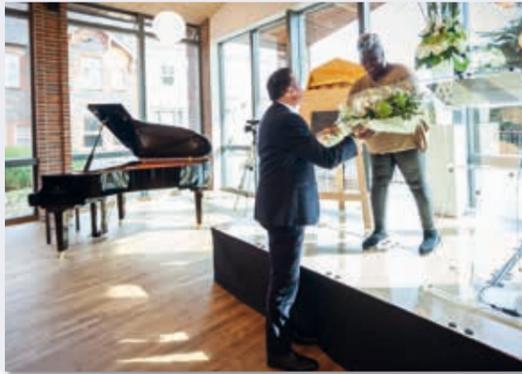
SIMPLICITY TRUTH RESPECT INTEGRITY PEACE EQUALITY SUSTAINABILITY

Achievement

Head's Welcome

Now in my second term at Leighton Park I continue to marvel at how this School fizzes with activities and achievement, both academic and co-curricular. Achievement shines brightest when it spans across the different facets of a student's character and this term has been a real showcase for our students' musical and creative talents.

Two of the most memorable events for me have been my first experience of the inimitable House Music competition, an amazing event, certainly living up to, if not surpassing, its hype; and the official opening of the Michael Malnick Centre (MMC) for Music and Media on 26th March by the Conductor of The Kingdom Choir, Karen Gibson.



Although the new building is indeed aesthetically stunning, it is what is now happening within the walls of the MMC that is truly exciting. A student's academic development cannot be understood in isolation, our students' creativity is a vital enabler to help them succeed, have balance, gain confidence and apply that creativity to other areas of their learning and development.

Academic Value Added

Leighton Park is one of the top two schools in Reading for the second year running, according to data released by the Department for Education (DfE) on Thursday 24th January. The statistics place the School securely in the highest band, rated by the DfE as 'Well Above Average' a measure applied to the top 5% of schools and colleges nationally, for the provision of Sixth Form education and secures our position in the top 100 schools and colleges in England and Wales. The quality of teaching and learning at Leighton Park is clearly apparent in the students' academic achievements, adding over a third of a grade, on average, to each student's A level results.



Competitive Edge

Our enthusiastic staff have been keen to arrange diverse competitive opportunities for our students this term. In January the LEGO Creators group ventured to Bristol where they put their collectively constructed robot through a series of challenging tests at the annual LEGO robotics competition hosted at the HP Labs. Four Year 9 students took part in Salter's Festival of Chemistry at Oxford University on Thursday 21st March alongside peers from across the county making paracetamol and creating a Nylon Polymer twelve and a half metres long! At the start of term two teams made up of **Adriana Ioannou** and **Shaun Uppal** (Lower Sixth) and **Angelika Etherington-Smith** and **Harry Penman** (Year 10) took part in the Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition at Magdalen College School, Oxford.



Advanced Performer Programme



Our APP offers students who achieve a representative level of sport additional coaching sessions and individual support. **Kate Hipkins** (Lower Sixth) has been named as a GB reserve to compete at the European and World Junior Championships. **Chunya Munga** (Upper Sixth) was selected to play for the England U18 Rugby Squad again and has signed to play for London Irish next year. **Owen Say** (Upper Sixth) is due to swim at the British para-swimming international meet in Glasgow in mid-April, part of the World Series. **Anna Worsfold** (Year 11) continues to play for the Surrey Storm U19 Netball team recently playing and beating Bath. **Ben Rowe** (Year 11) represented the London West region at the ISA Cross Country National finals at Rugby School this term.



Sporting Roundup



Photographs kindly supplied by MFPD Photography

Every Fryer and 60% of students in Year 11 to Upper Sixth have participated in competitive sport this term, continuing to sum up our 'sport for all' philosophy. Our four Fryer Rugby teams have played 22 Fixtures and won 14 of them. The Bs were unbeaten; winning six and drawing just one game. There has been fantastic achievement from the U15A Netball team winning 80% of their fixtures and the A team coming 3rd in the Plate at the ISA Regional tournament. The U14s are not far behind with 11 wins from 15 games (73%) with many players also at the ISA national Netball tournament at Queen Ethelburga's where the U14s finished Plate runners up. Well done to **Joe Partyka** (Year 10) for organising a successful ski team in Bracknell and congratulations to **Nicola Lee** (Year 10) captaining the U15 Girls' Indoor Cricket squad who came runners-up in the Lady Taverner's County Tournament. The 1st XI Footballers have battled superbly well to finish 3rd overall in the top flight of the Super League. A great ISA Rugby 7s tournament for the U16 Boys who won the Plate competition. The senior Netball teams' final tournament saw the B team win the Shield and at the ISA nationals in Yorkshire the girls finished 3rd in the main cup competition.

Expo 2019

Upper Sixth students impressed fellow students, staff and parents, who joined them at the EXPO on Friday 8th February. The evening is a chance for students to show off the hard work they have undertaken as part of their IB Extended Essays or Extended Project Qualifications. The evening was a great success with a plethora of interesting topics to engage the community such as, 'Should the UK government allow hydraulic fracking in Lancashire?', 'Where next after Mars?' and 'Do the benefits of Artificial Intelligence outweigh the risk?'. "All of the students presenting were great and spoke about their research so confidently; it was very impressive." commented **Eddie Falshaw**, Deputy Head.



Inspired by Maths



The UK Maths Trust annual Maths Challenge provided a numerical hurdle successfully leapt by students across the School and the Maths Inspiration lectures at the Hexagon Theatre hosted by stand-up mathematician Matt Parker offered interesting, interactive and highly entertaining lectures to our mathematicians on 21st March. The talks not only had excellent mathematical content, but also widened the horizons of pupils and indicated that maths can help in future jobs. Lower Sixth student **Lisa Ting** commented, "This show has demonstrated how topics in the curriculum are used in real life application, it is actually much better than I expected, some very cool stuff!"



Values

Africa Trip Dinner

Over 80 students, parents and staff who were involved with the trips to Uganda and Tanzania last term with Livingstone Tanzania Trust and Inspire Worldwide gathered together to reminisce and to share stories on Tuesday 2nd April. Sharing a traditional African meal in Oakview, the groups were presented with their Africa Memory Books and witnessed **Kierah Nabena, Chunya Munga, Kirsty Lerchundi** (Upper Sixth) and **Ella Starkey** (Lower Sixth) sharing their reflections of the experience building a cowshed, a handwashing station and a fishpond.



Art on Show



March sees the spotlight shine on two of our talented Upper Sixth students, **Nicole Ma** and **Blaire Zhou**.

Blaire inspects the fashion industry and asks, to what extent it is both ethical and sustainable? The paintings and imagery are there to shock and repulse, exposing the surface value of fashion and textiles as a second skin.

The Art Department felt that the students' work, on display in Oakview in March, complemented each other due to a shared subject matter of perceptions of beauty and its consequences.

While exploring notions of stretching and distortion, Nicole's work references different standards of beauty across cultures. Her work looks back to ancient Chinese traditions and symbolism and compares them to the ideals seen today via social media.

At the end of the month, we enjoyed the IB Art Exhibition in the Upper Foyer of the MMC. The three talented artists, **Anthea Schulz, Ahmed Adala** and **Kathy Szeto** (Upper Sixth), each intending to progress to creative courses next year, presented a collection of personal work ranging from recycled fashion to narrative ceramics.



An Ethical Education

Sixth Formers enjoyed two insightful seminars to explore ethics in business this term conducted by Gill Ringland from Ethical Reading. The first, on Wednesday 30th January, focussed on the concept of fairness and the second, on 3rd April, on respect.

Ethical Reading is a not-for-profit social enterprise that aims to make more businesses in Reading a better place to work by working with organisations to ensure they embed ethics into decision-making processes. Our Sixth Form Economics students worked in groups debating case studies, how they would act and why would choose that method of handling the situation.

The seminars, organised by **Karen Gracie-Langrick**, Deputy Head (Academic) contribute to the development of a formalised education programme in ethical enterprise and entrepreneurship. "Ethical enterprise draws together strands from our own Quaker values, ethical trading and the vital concept of sustainability," clarified Karen.



Playing the Half Marathon

With Head of Science, **David Hammond**, and Head of Chemistry, **Adam Ball**, both running the Reading half this year, the band were out in force at the West Lodge entrance to the School cheering the marathon racers on with a cheerful tune or two!



Hockey for a Cause

An enthusiastic Sixth Form fundraiser persuaded members of staff to exchange their Staff Fitness Session in the Gym for a friendly hockey match against students in aid of supporting The Christie NHS Foundation, Manchester, on Monday 14th January.

The organiser of the event, **Kirsty Lerchundi** (Upper Sixth), is a finalist for the Miss Teen Galaxy UK, a pageant competition which encourages participants to support each other with their community outreach ideas.

As a keen member of the Sixth Form fundraising group, Amicus, and having worked with Jinga Educational Trust (JET) on the Sixth Form Africa trip to Uganda, Kirsty decided to combine her passion for fundraising and her interest in pageants together.

"I thought it was a great way to bring the community together and inspire others to do things for the greater good," said Kirsty.



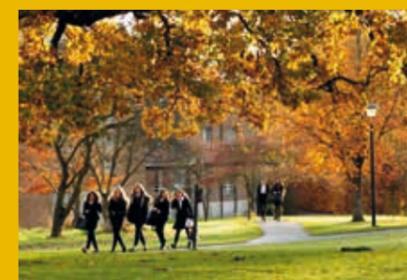
Sustainable Site



Upholding the School's commitment to sustainability is Grounds and Facilities Manager, **Tom Sheldon**. "We are trying to achieve as much sustainability across the Park as we can," Tom explained. "It's important that we work with the right companies and find suppliers who are local to us to help reduce our carbon footprint."

This term saw School House receive the first sofa covered in fabric made from 100% recycled plastic bottles. All boarding houses and the Individual Learning Centre will have this sustainable furniture within three years. Although the estates team do occasionally fell trees, they are careful to plan two new trees in a nearby location recognising the value of saplings which use up more carbon dioxide as they grow. Compacting waste that can be recycled, outsourcing non-recyclable waste to an incineration company that guarantees emissions cleaner than the air we already breathe and changing the fuel for the School's vehicles and power tools has already made a big difference.

School House is currently being fitted with solar panels, adding to the power already provided by those on the rooves of the swimming pool, Reckitt and Oakview restaurant.



Change Champions!

Leighton Park has achieved a landmark in the School's sustainability journey with the launch of the Change Champions initiative to students in Years 7 and 8 in January. It is vital that young people understand the critical importance of their role within a global community committed to nurturing the world in which we live for their own future and that of subsequent generations.

"The Change Champions initiative, which we will deliver through our weekly CAS (Community, Action, Service) sessions, is about empowering our students to be real drivers of change as they look at their role as stewards of the planet and to action their pioneering ideas to make a difference and to reduce our carbon footprint," enthused **Karen Gracie-Langrick**, Deputy Head (Academic).

As the launch presentation came to a close, the students were buzzing with ideas "I was really inspired by the tiers of sustainability," added **Jack Mancey** (Year 8) "I don't know what I'm going to do next but I want to do something for good."



Supporting Red Balloon



Christine Pepper from the charity, Red Balloon, was pleased to accept a cheque from Amicus, our Sixth Form fundraising group, on Monday 18th March. Red Balloon is a local charity providing full or part-time therapeutic care and education for young people, helping them regain their self-esteem and confidence. Christine talked in Collect about their work and the importance of support from groups such as Amicus.

Character

Dubai Netball Tour



An enthusiastic group of our talented netballers in Year 9 and above headed for Dubai over Long Leave keen to experience the challenge of facing opposition in sunny climes. Their overseas training clearly paid off as before the tour they won one match and afterwards they won six!

With a week to enjoy their sporting preparations the girls managed to fit in plenty of Dubai sightseeing with highlights including the Dubai 7s stadium and the Sky Lounge as well as the Burj Khalifa, the Dubai Mall and the Emirates Shopping Mall.

The girls' first matches were in Abu Dhabi, playing Capital Netball Academy at the Zayad Cricket Stadium, only the day after landing! The tournament at the Dubai 7s stadium later in the week was an excellent experience with the Senior team winning two out of three matches against Silcoates from Yorkshire and the Hurricanes.

The tour finished on a fantastic high with two wins from the Seniors (33-10) and Juniors (22-18) netball teams against Exiles Netball Club. The girls celebrated with a 4x4 foray into the desert and discovered a BBQ and belly dancing show alongside plenty of sand dunes!

Politics and Parliament

On Monday 11th February Lower Sixth History and Politics students visited the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court to experience government 'behind the scenes'. They went through the 'Nay' lobby before entering the Commons from behind the speaker's chair. Students then got to stand (you're not allowed to sit!) amongst the government benches in the Commons, whilst the tour guide talked them through some idiosyncrasies of parliamentary procedure.

The group continued into the Lords, absorbing the impressive paintings of Waterloo and Trafalgar, and the Tudor room with its recently finished paintings of the Spanish Armada. After lunch the guided tour of all three courts of the Supreme Court concluded the day.

"It was really interesting to see the inner working of our country and to hear about the Supreme Court that you wouldn't usually think about. It was also cool to sit in the judge's seats in the courts and to stand by the dispatch box in the Commons." explained **Jasmine Walker**.



Paris in Spring

From 7th to 10th February Lower Sixth French students abandoned British shores and ventured over to France for the weekend to absorb Parisian culture and enjoy the many sights, sounds and experiences that the city had to offer. A highlight for many was going up the Eiffel Tower.



D of E Update

Our intrepid Silver D of E explorers were out and about on Saturday 19th January around Goring Heath practising their map reading skills, followed by the Bronze group's expedition a week later with their trek from Reading to Mortimer. The two levels also benefitted from an expedition training morning each this term.

The six members of the Silver group from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme ventured to the Surrey Hills for a three day practice hike just before the end of term. The group had to fend off night time badger raids on their baked goods and support **Klara Pimm** struggling with horrible blisters. **Ann Munday**, D of E Co-ordinator, commented, "They really looked after each other and got on well together; all of that helps to make the expedition successful."

On Sunday 24th March we were proud to celebrate the achievements of students who have completed their D of E Awards for Bronze (2017/2018) and Silver (2018).



Psychology Trip



AS Psychology students visited the Natural History and Science Museums in London on Thursday 7th March to assist with some revision and to introduce them to some of the material they will be studying next year or even at University.

Students spent a long time in the Human Development Gallery of the NHM reviewing how the nervous system and stress response works in the body before refreshing the topics of memory and eyewitness testimony.

At the Science Museum they learnt more about the influence of genetics



on behaviour, the vast array of different types of phobia and looked at influences on gender development and identity in the 'Who Am I?' gallery. The day concluded with the opportunity to view some cross sections of one of the most famous brains in Psychology; HM who had no long term memory.

"I really enjoyed exploring the museums and I found the 'Who Am I?' exhibit in the Science Museum really interesting, especially the section about identity," commented **Amelia Fulton-Urry** (Lower Sixth).

Food Tech on Tour

Four of our Food Tech GCSE students enjoyed a feast on Friday 25th January at the Hind's Head in Bray. Students toured the kitchens and learnt about the processes behind the scenes of a commercial catering business. Their visit concluded with a scrumptious lunch satisfying their hunger as well as inspiring our budding chefs for their future culinary creations!

On Wednesday 3rd April, the same group tried out their cookery skills in some very swish facilities thanks to Exact Kitchens in Barkham. **Alex Stone**, **Alex Maye** and **Nicola Lee** (Year 10) were wowed by some impressive kitchen technology designed to ensure domestic duties are a delight. The kitchens were "advanced, cool and sophisticated" places according to Nicola. The group were undertaking an essential aspect of their GCSE course, paired cooking, where each member of a couple cooks a course and the complete meal has to offer complementary flavours, textures and attractive presentation as well as take nutritional value into account.

Reflecting on the experience of hosting the young chefs, owner, Jason Ivil, said, "We show clients around our displays every day but to see them being used in groups and seeing the quality of the end results was a really nice experience for us."



We Will Remember Them



On Tuesday 12th March five members of the Sixth Form set off for Auschwitz as part of a group of 50 from various UK schools supported by the charity, Chesterhill Charitable Trust Ltd.

The tour took them to Auschwitz I, with its two-storey brick buildings and to Auschwitz II-Birkenau, where a small minority of the original rows of wooden huts survive. On arrival at Birkenau the group scaled the tower of the gatehouse to see the sheer scale of the camp and the railway line that runs through its centre to the ruins of the main gas chamber and crematorium destroyed by the Nazis in an attempt to hide the evidence of the crimes which had been perpetrated. Beside the main memorial all the groups on the tour paused for a short period of reflection.

Shaun Uppal (Lower Sixth) commented, "The trip to Auschwitz was the most moving and fascinating trip I have ever been part of. The sheer scale took me by shock and I was horrified that such an event happened not so long ago."

Earlier in the term Year 9 students participated in a History day on courage and forgiveness, focussing on twentieth century conflict and genocide. Students experienced a talk from the Trooper Potts Memorial Trust discovering that Potts is unique as Reading's sole recipient of the Victoria Cross for his bravery in WWI.

The same week in February concluded with Sixth Form Historians listening to Holocaust survivor, Ernest Simons, describe harrowing experiences from his past, gaining real insight into the unfathomable events of World War II.

Performance Workshops

Two fantastic workshops, one for circus skills and one for dance, took place on Saturday 9th February and Saturday 9th March respectively, taught by contemporary dance expert, Bethan Ireland. A number of students were introduced to floor work for the first time and approached the challenge with such positivity that by the end of the class they were able to perform a short piece which incorporated adage, allegro and whole ensemble movement.

Freya Cook (Year 8) commented "I have learnt how dynamics are really important when you dance and that emotion is key to performance."

In the circus workshop students had a lot of fun challenging themselves at a range of acrobatic balance tasks: juggling, still walking, hula hooping, plate spinning and laughing!



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Dramatic Excursions



Students enjoyed a variety of performing arts trips this term broadening their knowledge of music, dance and theatre.



Students keen on dance enjoyed Matthew Bourne's famous interpretation of 'Swan Lake' on Wednesday 9th January at Sadler's Wells. **Beth Butler**, Dance teacher, commented "It was a wonderful opportunity to watch a piece of dance created by an extremely successful British practitioner. His choreographic skill has achieved considerable international recognition and by the end of the evening students understood why." **Adi Othnay** and **Bella de la Mora** (Year 9) agreed: "It was a new and different experience and we loved every bit. The dances were amazing with unique choreography."

Music students were lucky enough to watch the London production of 'Wicked' on Thursday 24th January, appreciating everything that goes into a West End show of this scale, including the front of house, orchestra and set design.



Year 7s visited the Unicorn Theatre on Wednesday 27th February and were transported back to Ancient Greece for the story of Icarus. This ancient tale had a modern twist featuring scooters, selfies and flossing to explore the themes of family, authority and power. **Leana Mikula**, English teacher, commented "The sound effects and the modernisation of the story made it very exciting. It's a great theatre for children and we really wanted to give students who maybe haven't had a lot of exposure to theatre a positive experience."



Sixth Form Sprout Haters!

On Friday 15th March, the Upper Sixth A Level Biologists visited Oxford's Natural History Museum to learn about modern biotechnological techniques. They looked behind the scenes and took part in practical work to isolate and analyse their own DNA. They were investigating whether they carried one, two or no copies of an allele that affects whether they can taste a chemical found in brassicas (from the cabbage family). Students then proved the experiment by tucking into some sprouts!

The Museum also has an awesome exhibition on bacteria which the group were keen to visit, especially as it included a giant inflatable model of an E. coli suspended from the ceiling!



Touring Mini Cooper

On Friday 8th February Upper Sixth Design and Technology students were treated to an exclusive tour of the BMW Mini Plant in Oxford, supporting their learning about mass commercial manufacturing processes. The highlight of the day was trialling the Mini car simulators!

"The Mini factory tour was a fantastic experience, both to learn about the industrial processes used for the mass production, but to also appreciate the amount of engineering work that goes into optimizing this process for time, logistics and efficiency. Seeing the inside of the factory was a fantastic example of the practical application of some of the skills we learn in the classroom. The virtual driving experience to end the day was also a lot of fun." explained **Fred McArthur**.



House Talent

An eclectic mix of acts took to the stage in Main Hall on Wednesday 6th February for the return of the House Talent competition. Categories included Lip Sync, Comedy and Speciality. It was a brilliant evening that everyone in the community enjoyed! Perhaps we'll be seeing some of these entertaining acts on 'Britain's Got Talent' in the near future!



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Community

Book Week

Our annual Book Week once again featured a packed literary programme this term. We were excited to welcome some fabulous authors including Steve Cole on Monday 4th March and for the Writing for Teenagers Conference on Friday 8th March, Julian Sedgwick, Alexis Deacon, Alice Broadway, Mel Darbon and Penny Joelson. Oakview gave us a stunning Roald Dahl themed lunch for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, and throughout the week there were guerilla poetry sessions, readings during lunchtimes, a story quiz trail and a poetry open mic session as well as the ever popular Book Shop in the Cadbury Room; a great place to pick out a good read!

This year profits from the Book Shop totalled £528 and will be donated to the Jinja Educational Trust, our partner community in Uganda, supporting the development of their library.

The creator of several highly successful children's book series, including Young Bond and Doctor Who, Steve Cole spent his visit entertaining Year 5 visitors from local primary schools encouraging them to broaden their imaginations. After lunch with the Year 9 and 10 Book Group, Steve spoke to Year 7 and 8 students about spy fiction, sharing some fascinating secrets of espionage.



Nine visiting schools joined our Year 9s for interesting presentations and workshops with five renowned Young Adult authors at the Writing for Teenagers Conference. This Rising Stars Panel session, led by Librarian **Chris Routh**, explored the authors' differing approaches to characterisation and setting, as well as the processes involved in achieving publication and their plans for future books. The subsequent author workshops offered an inspiring perspective on characterisation before the final session of the conference; a presentation by Leighton Park graphic novel fans on The Excelsior Book Awards and a celebration of Stan Lee, creator of the Marvel Comics franchise.

Harry Potter Day

Students enjoyed a Harry Potter themed day on Thursday 7th February as Fryer Book Club enjoyed taking part in a quiz followed by some Harry Potter inspired lectures that included interactive talks on Herbology, Potions and Transfiguration! Not to mention the incredible Harry Potter themed Library transformation thanks to our brilliant Library staff.



Big Bang Interactive

Our third annual Big Bang Interactive event was a fascinating foray into all things Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) for almost 250 visiting Year 5 pupils and our delighted Year 7s on Monday 11th March.

Workshops run by industry professionals including Intel, Bion, Volume AI, Pfizer, Reading University, RSSL SAM Labs, Design Thinking and Discovery with Three, as well as by Leighton Park's own academic team, were organised around an hilarious STEAM-themed presentation by scientists and entertainers, Science Boffins, to create a morning which was lively, interactive and full of fun!

Maths teacher and Lead on Leighton Park's Outreach Programme, **Mark Budge**, commented, "It is vital that we spark interest in STEAM subjects from an early age. Big Bang Interactive delivered this to an outstanding level, thanks to the amazing efforts of all our workshop partners. This has definitely been the best year yet!"



Teen Tech City



The Year 8 STEAM ambassadors welcomed Year 5 pupils from St Mary's School, Henley, on Wednesday 27th February to design an innovative building of the future using recycled household materials. The Teen Tech City of Tomorrow project aims to promote good citizenship, sustainability, teamwork and creative problem solving in the creation of a building that improves quality of life by being kinder to the environment and safer for its inhabitants.

Our Year 7 students undertook an identical exercise in March and together pupils from both schools took their creations up to the Teen Tech City national showcase on 3rd April at the Emirates Stadium, London, which brings together ideas from young people all over the country.

"We had teams winning in their categories and also two teams who topped the winners' lists!" grinned **Peter Marshman**, Head of Computer Science, and the School's Teen Tech co-ordinator. "One of these was for our Year 7 girls' team who won 'Environment and Sustainability' category which I think is very topical for the School with sustainability being at the heart of our Quaker ethos. Congratulations also go to the teams who won the 'Health and Wellbeing Space', 'Best Domestic Space', 'Best Outside Space' and 'Best Recreational Space' categories for their imaginative and innovative ideas."



We Love House Music!

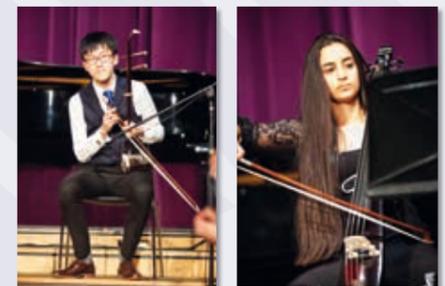


The School's love of the inimitable event that is House Music reached new heights on Thursday 21st March as the 2019 competition was enthusiastically contested by the four Senior Houses, School, Grove, Field and Reckitt.

Described as a cross between a rock concert and a rugby match, and requiring a few folk to consider the merits of earplugs as the crowd roared, bashed pans, blew trumpets and banged kitchen utensils delightedly between sets, the overwhelming ethos of the event is one of support and community. As one member of the audience described the evening: "The most impressive element of the entire evening was the spirit in which it was performed. The noise was one thing, the competition clearly fierce and full of rivalries, but the support that the entire community gave to each performance was incredible. If a performer faltered, it wasn't just their own House that encouraged them, it was everyone. The Fryers were cheered more than any other House in order to embrace them into the LP culture. The support was phenomenal. Across Houses, across age groups, across genders and cultures."

As is traditional for this popular annual event there were four categories and an entry was put forward by each House for Soloist, Original Composition, Small Ensemble and Large Ensemble. The esteemed judges, Paul Cosh, Otis Lawrence, Andy Piecy and Freddie Gavita, drew on decades of professional music experience between them and were presided over by Head, **Matthew Judd**.

Sixth Formers, **Emily Wilkes** and **Ethan Pearce** (Upper Sixth), Heads of House for Grove, who won this year's competition were beaming with pride at their victory: "We couldn't believe we actually won and I was delighted by how our House came together and gave it their all." said Ethan.



Community

Whizz Pop Bang!

The efforts and energy of the Parent and Staff Community (PSC) have given the School two excellent events this term. Welcoming in the new year with fireworks, food and friendship, 2019 was marked with a whizz, pop, bang at the end of the first week back.



Quiz Time!

Later in January the PSC's Family Quiz was a source of immense enjoyment and a great opportunity to compete against other families (and staff teams!) with mixed age group teams lending a distinct advantage! There was also a licensed bar available with all proceeds from the event going towards the development work planned for the Sixth Form Africa trips in 2020.



Friends Reunited

It's not often that a building is the star of the show at an event put on by the Alumni Office, but visitors to the Former Staff and Governors' tea were truly open-mouthed as they visited the new Michael Malnick Centre for Music and Media on Wednesday 13th February.

Former Head of English, **Ian House**, commented "The new building work is bang up-to-date but also in sympathy with the old Hall and the music and media facilities are altogether boggling. I was also very glad to see students working and practising in the practice rooms ... it's one thing to have great facilities but the important thing is that they're used."

Some of the visitors recalled the opening of the Main Hall itself and marvelled at the connection between the old and new buildings.

On Saturday 30th March there was also a Community Sport Morning which saw Old Leightonians vs Leighton Park compete against each other in football and hockey matches.



Flying High!

To mark the 60th anniversary of the official launch of 'Min', the glider built and flown at Leighton Park in the 1950s and 60s, under the direction of teacher, **John Simpson**, the Design and Technology Department are planning to build a scale model of the original Slingsby T21.

A number of Old Leightonians who were either involved in building the glider or who were pilots, came back this term to talk to the teachers about the original project. The facilities in the modern workshop compared to the old hobby sheds made their jaws drop!

Jonathan Jewkes (Old Leightonian) recalled "The Slingsby company sold gliders in kit form, which LP bought a bit at a time (starting with just the rudder, then the fuselage). However, the construction group had some good fortune - someone donated the wings with their framework completed. The leading edges of the wings, and the cockpit, were covered in plywood, but the rest of the wings and much of the fuselage were covered with fabric which had to be carefully attached to the frame, and then treated with 'dope' which shrunk and tightened the fabric."

Jonathan continues "I had my first lessons on the original Min which was nice to fly, and the open cockpit enhanced the feeling of being in the air; also it flew slowly thus making landings not too bumpy. Launching was done by being towed on a long cable behind a pick-up truck, and we could get up to 1,000 ft."

