

the park

the Leighton Park School newsletter

Spring 2018



SIMPLICITY TRUTH RESPECT INTEGRITY PEACE EQUALITY SUSTAINABILITY

Senior Production of 'Parade'
ISA National Schools Netball Tournament
Interactive STEM Events for All

Headlines



I love the Spring Term. While the nights may be long and the weather unfriendly, it is such an industrious term. Almost in defiance of the elements, our students' enthusiasm, love of learning and delight in trying new things keeps the school vibrant and joyful and our staff focussed and enthused. None of this happens by accident. It is the result of hard work and an approach deeply rooted in the Quaker testimonies and ethos.

While I have a healthy disregard for most government league tables, I was pleased to see the success of our approach recognised in January's 16-18 Progress analysis. Leighton Park's Sixth Formers achieved the best academic progress in Berkshire, with the school in the top 40 in England. My congratulations go to our talented students and the dedicated teachers and staff that support them.

Our 128 year old secret formula for achieving excellent academic progress is not really much of a secret. Academic success is the consequence of our approach rather than the object. Our principle aim is to inspire

students to succeed as themselves. We are not a results factory and we are not trying to produce a certain type of student.

At Leighton Park's core is the importance of seeing each student as an individual and supporting our young people to discover and develop their greatest talents. This is most obviously demonstrated through our expansive co-curricular programme, which includes 90 options, our music for all approach and our emphasis on creative arts and participation in sports. A culture of mutual respect and intellectual curiosity, however, is just as essential.

Prospective families sometimes ask me if we are an academic school. I believe we absolutely are and it is heartening that the government's analysis supports this. But too often I am concerned that this question reflects a false dichotomy that has become rooted in the public consciousness. An imagined choice that families face in which they have to choose between a school with a holistic and caring approach and a school in which their child will succeed academically.

To me, it is self-evident that education should not focus on one aspect of a young person's development. How can it? Like a complex organisation, success in one area depends on other areas performing well, too. A student's academic development cannot be understood in isolation but must be considered in conjunction with their emotional and physical wellbeing, confidence, maturity and happiness.

I hope that the updates that follow help you to share my enthusiasm for Leighton Park's distinctive approach and wonder at the achievements and talents of our young people.

With best wishes,
Nigel Williams, Head

Contents

News

pages three, four and five

Learning Adventurously

pages six and seven

STEM

pages eight, nine and ten

House Music

page eleven

Music & Drama

pages twelve and thirteen

Library

page fourteen

Art & Design

page fifteen

Sport

pages sixteen and seventeen

Sixth Form

page eighteen

LP Community

page nineteen

PSC

page twenty

Please visit Leightonpark.com for up-to-date news throughout the year.

The cover photograph, 'The Solo Performer' was kindly taken by Nigel Blain.

Meet the New Head!

We are delighted that **Matthew Judd** will be joining Leighton Park School as Head from 1st September 2018.

Matthew joins us with a very impressive track record of success from Haberdashers' Aske's School, where he is Second Master (equivalent to Deputy Head) and Executive Head of the preparatory school. He has been instrumental in driving academic standards whilst bringing greater focus on values education and personalised learning. Haberdashers' Aske's School is one of the UK's leading independent

schools and won Sunday Times Independent School of the Year in 2017.

Matthew is looking forward to meeting members of the Leighton Park community during the Summer Term. He will be joining families from current Years 7 and 8, together with our incoming Lower School students, at Fryer Festival on Saturday 23rd June, meeting those in the upper years over tea later the same afternoon. Matthew will also visit the Park for the inaugural Drama festival on Tuesday 12th June. Families will receive invitations in the Summer Term.



News

Sixth Form Progress Success!



Leighton Park Sixth Formers achieve the best academic progress among Berkshire schools according to new Government data. The Department of Education (DfE) released information on 25th January that aims to show the academic progress students have made since joining a school. The previous system charted the percentage of students achieving grades A* to C at A Level and was considered unfair by many as it took no account of students' starting levels. The new data demonstrates with greater clarity the impact a school has had on students' academic attainment.

The new progress measure for A Levels gives Leighton Park a score of 0.55, placing it in the top 40 schools in England and the best performing school in Berkshire.

While all league tables must be viewed with a degree of caution, we are naturally delighted that the Government's new measure recognises the outstanding and dedicated work of our vibrant learning community. Leighton Park's holistic approach to education, informed by our Quaker ethos, places great emphasis on seeing each student as an individual and working hard to ensure that young people enjoy their learning.

Karen Gracie-Langrick, Deputy Head (Academic), commented, "This positive measure of performance is a useful marker of a school's contribution to students' academic attainment. Leighton Park's results demonstrate a year on year trend for improvement and are the result of the incredible investment made by all staff to securing the best outcomes for our students."

Final Collect



Friday 23rd March offered staff and students a chance to celebrate this term's achievements across the school in Final Collect. School House did exceptionally well, being awarded the Merit Cup, the House Hockey and House Netball cups; Grove won the House Football cup and Reckitt received the House Basketball cup. Field House were still buzzing from their triumph the previous week at House Music for the third year running! **Joe Partyka** (Year 9) received a new award, the Ski Cup, for captaining the first ever Leighton Park ski team to second place in this term's Berkshire schools' event.

Michael Malnick Centre

Two years ago we were delighted to be granted planning permission for the development of Main Hall into a wonderful, enhanced teaching and learning space for Music and Media. The development will offer seven new practice rooms, three new classrooms, a Yamaha Radio 1 inspired 'Live Lounge' for rehearsals, recordings and broadcasts, a custom-built media room with green screen, lighting, editing equipment and surround sound cinema system, an extended foyer for small receptions and, externally, new paved pedestrianised spaces for seating and relaxation.



The anticipated completion date for the Music and Media Centre is Summer 2018 and this term we have been pleased to watch the internal areas taking shape. The blockwork has revealed the shape of the rooms, whilst the installation of the windows and the attachment of some of the roof panels have helped weatherproof parts of the structure. Now that the cabling is going in, the roof is coming on apace and the weather is more conducive to construction projects, we are on course for the grand opening next term!

News

New GCSEs on Offer!

With our aim of providing an inspiring, holistic education for each individual, Deputy Head (Academic), **Karen Gracie-Langrick** is delighted to announce new GCSE options, offering our students even more choice from September 2018.

There will be a new GCSE in Dance, further enhancing our strong creative arts offering and complementing our investment in performing arts through the development of the Michael Malnick Centre for music and media. To support the Dance GCSE we are recruiting a dance teacher, creating a new dance studio and expanding our co-curricular programme.

Reflecting the school's strength in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), we will be launching a new GCSE in Engineering. This subject will explore

materials, manufacturing processes and systems. It will also build on our strong industry partnerships with companies like Cisco and Intel and our close relationship with the IET (Institute of Engineering and Technology). We are investing in STEM facilities, including the creation of a STEM creative studio, sponsored in part by HP, to support the growth in relevance and popularity of Design Technology, Computer Science and Engineering.

The school will also offer a new GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition, which will focus on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. This exciting new option will make the most of our fantastic food technology centre, link closely with the school's PE GCSE and support our Advanced Performer Programme (APP) for elite athletes.

Snow Days!

For the first time in years the school closed to Day Students for two days in March due to snow! The Park looked beautiful with its covering of white but we were grateful that the freezing weather didn't last too long!



D of E Update



Two expeditions were organised by those tackling their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards this term: Silver Award participants braved wet and windy weather on Saturday 27th January to navigate from Path Hill to Goring Heath and, despite the rain, Year 9s working on Bronze successfully completed their day walk to Mortimer on Saturday 5th February. There has also been training on site with Year 10 spending Saturday 10th March map reading, tent pitching and planning for their qualifying Silver Award expeditions. The following day the second Award Presentation since the school became an independent Licensed D of E Centre last year took place. Sir David Bell presented Awards to seven Year 11

students: **William Darracott, Adriana Ioannou, Rupert Jones, Ella Starkey, Michael Rincon, Harleen Pandhal and Jiahua Zhao**. Six students were unable to attend the event but still received their Bronze Awards: Lower Sixth Formers, **Matthew Meade, Tiernan Tanner and Will Parsons**, and Year 11 students, **Tom McLellan, Shyam Sundar and Shaun Uppal**.



Supporting RBH



Nigel Williams, Head, led a small team of staff to the Holiday Inn, Winnersh, on Tuesday 16th January to celebrate the presentation of £10,500 to the Royal Berkshire Hospital's fundraising group, the Royal Berkshire Charity. The money was raised through the Reading Charity Art Fair held at Leighton Park at the end of October and featuring work by students from Leighton Park, from Crosfields School and by local artists. The money will contribute to the purchase of a new portable breast cancer ultrasound scanner.



Chocolate Box Challenge



On Friday 2nd February, Year 9s put on their best Willie Wonka business style hats as they undertook the annual Chocolate Box Challenge run by Inspiring Futures, our partner in supporting students' decisions from GCSE choices through to tertiary education and employment.

The event is arranged to coincide with the Options Information Evening and encourages students to consider their skillset through teamwork and which options they feel may be most beneficial for them at GCSE.

"My team has made 'Chocolife', a healthy vegan chocolate and I have enjoyed being the Project Manager." explained **Aiden Shaya**. *"Today has really helped us learn what skills we can bring and to think about what jobs we might like in the future and how to make decisions."* commented **Olivia Walcott**.

Master Chef



On Tuesdays 23rd and 30th January, Leighton Park held Round One of its very first Master Chef Competition with twelve brave students and staff putting their culinary skills to the test, cooking their signature dishes for the judges.

Dishes included homemade gnocchi with a blue cheese sauce, chocolate fondant with orange sorbet and pesto chicken wrapped in prosciutto ham. "I thought the competition would be a fun opportunity to test my skills against other people from the school." commented **Tim Green**, PE teacher and Head of Boys' Games.

Ellie Corfield (Year 7), **Arturo Paone** (Year 7), **Nicola Lee** (Year 9), **Tony Wang** (Upper Sixth) and staff members, **Tom Rawlings**, **Preetpal Sall** and **Ken Sullivan** were the successful chefs. "I was really pleased with my dish; the judges seemed to like it. It was amazing and really unexpected to get through!" commented Ellie.

Round Two on Tuesday 13th March saw the contestants back in the Food Tech room creating their own dish from a box of ingredients, which included sea bass, prawns and a selection of spices. With Thai fishcakes and risotto up against more traditional presentation it was a tough call. The judges are welcoming Arturo, Nicola, Tom and Ken back next term for another culinary battle.

Sensational Sweets!



Year 7s spent Tuesday 30th January making their very own chocolate bars. Tasked with the challenge of an original concept, students included everything from glitter to bacon flavoured popping candy in their treats! "My friend Arthur puts cheese on everything he eats so I've included cheese in my chocolate bar for him." explained **Mecca Kozarki**. **Thomas Billing** added cinder toffee flavoured with Thai fish sauce to create his 'Crab Crunch' bar, according to his mother Alison, it got a positive vote at home! Year 8s joined in the fun creating their own cookie brand, designing all aspects of the product from the packaging, the cookie cutter and, on Monday 29th January, the biscuits themselves – yum!

Flipping Pancakes!

Since Shrove Tuesday fell during Long Leave this year we were deprived of the annual House Pancake Race. However, Year 9s enjoyed making crêpes the previous week as part of La Chandeleur celebrations, perfecting their pancake flipping skills with plenty of laughter!



Learning Adventurously

Tectonics, Volcanoes and Earthquakes



On Wednesday the 21st March 70 Year 9 Geography students, the Geography department and honorary Geography teachers for the day (**Alex Leighton, Gemma Sims, Leni Samuels** and **Grace Ritchie**) ventured to the Natural History Museum to learn more about (and even experience!) volcanoes and earthquakes.

An interactive presentation 'Rock the House', kicked off the day, with students learning about the basics of plate tectonics, consolidating information they have been learning over the Spring Term. **Jozef Partyka** was chosen to experiment with a non-Newtonian Fluid (custard) as an explanation of the make-up of the mantle. **Roisin Houchen** demonstrated how z folds were formed in a simulation of two continental crusts colliding. **Gemma Sims** and **Sid Kulkarni** demonstrated how seismometers work by jumping - one of them made a larger impact, we are just not saying who! **Joshua McCabe** commented, "i really feel like the talk from 'Rock the House' has helped me understand tectonics better".

After the lively start, students had an opportunity to explore the treasures of the museum. **Aiden Shaya** commented,

"i enjoyed the freedom that we were given to walk around at our own pace and see different exhibits in small groups".

The final part of the trip involved students exploring the 'Red Zone' with a directed booklet to complete and earthquake simulator to experience. **Bertha Kunska** noted,

"i enjoyed the Earthquakes and Volcanoes area because i learned new facts."

The winner of the prestigious Globe Pen went to **Patrick Cullen** for the level of detail in his answers.

Battle of the Geographers



On Thursday 18th January six students took part in the Geography Association (GA) Worldwide Quiz at Reading Boys' School and had a great time battling against other schools to win a selection of prizes. Questions comprised a range of geographical knowledge from local to national trivia and truly tested our geographers' young minds!

Alpine Adventures

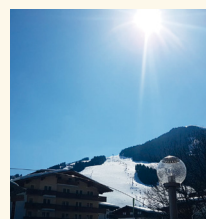


During the Easter break, 36 students from Year 7 to Upper Sixth jetted off to the alpine resort of Saalbach-Hinterglemm in Austria for some sun and skiing fun!

Blessed with beautiful sunshine on the first day, students found their ski legs and explored the slopes with their groups and instructors, soaking up the views and the clement weather, resulting in a few interesting tan lines!

Despite the trip being late in the season, students awoke the next day to find that fifteen centimetres of snow had fallen during the night. Thick, fat snowflakes continued to fall well into the morning, but the rays of sun breaking through the clouds made it a brilliant day for skiing. The following three days saw yet more snow and glimpses of sunshine, giving students the perfect break in the Austrian mountains.

Entertainment didn't stop when students left the slopes, with trips to a funky bowling alley, thermal swimming pools with mountain views and even a taste of Austrian dancing, horn blowing and yodelling. The enthusiasm of the students was exceeded only by Acting Head of Middle School, **Myles Nash's** yodelling talents!

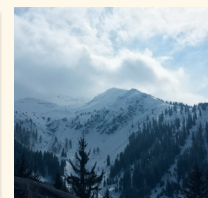


"It was a great trip; the skiing was amazing and some of the views from the ski lifts were incredible." **Alex Stone** (Year 9)

"There were some late nights and snowy days but that didn't stop us from having an amazing time. Fraser falling over ten thousand times was definitely a highlight of the trip for me!" **Alem Mohamed** (Year 10)

"The ski trip was a really amazing experience and I have learnt a lot! Highlights for me were visiting the thermal spa and going down a black run without falling over once!" **Ruth Mills** (Year 10)

"The ski trip was amazing. The Austrian themed night was really fun and it was interesting to learn about Austrian culture!" **Josh Woodlock** (Year 8)



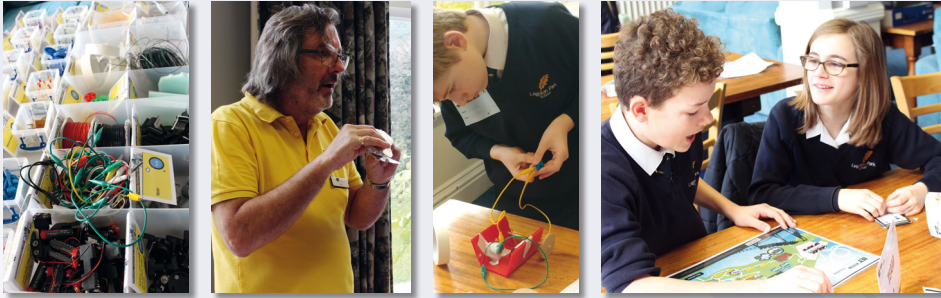
Warhammer

On the first weekend of February a team of four Leighton Park students won the regional heats of the Warhammer Schools' League international competition run by Games Workshop. Our students have been perfecting their pieces and gaming strategy through the co-curricular programme, ready for the regional finals at Warhammer World in Nottingham.



STEM

IET Faraday Challenge



Six Year 8 students were delighted to welcome the Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) to Leighton Park on Wednesday 21st February for the IET STEM Faraday Challenge. This year's national competition involved a scenario situated at one of the UK's leading theme parks offering the pupils enormous scope for creativity and fun.

The team from Leighton Park were joined by students representing Bulmershe School, Emmbrook School and Hall Grove School as they battled it out for the most innovative and effective solution.

The morning started with the teams identifying key roles and brainstorming a

range of alternative options. These ideas were then deconstructed into schematic drawings, sketches and circuit designs. Using their Faraday currency, students selected from a range of components available in the 'shop', building their prototypes utilising hydraulics and motorisation. Each team then presented their work reflecting on their successes and challenges to provide ideas for further refinement.

"I really enjoyed working together with my team. I loved learning more about engineering and I think that I have a better understanding of it." enthused **Eva van den Berg** (Year 8)

Fryer Science Club



On Monday 26th February, Fryer Science Club visited the University of Reading's Hall Farm in Shinfield, which also houses the Centre for Dairy Research. Students saw lots of animals, including llamas, chickens, sheep and cows.

"The trip was amazing. I loved visiting the farm and seeing so many cows! We saw a calf take its first steps, it was so cute! We also got to stroke some calves that were six days old!" said **Ella Rawlins** (Year 7).

The rotary parlour for milking 600 cows and the processes used to collect up to 50,000 litres of milk a day were amazing. The students also saw the research facility used to produce antibodies and anti-venom against snake bites using chicken eggs.

The Science Club returned to the Sensory and Food Production Labs at the university on Tuesday 6th March to learn how some of the milk produced at the farm could be made into icecream. The group were delighted to taste the fruits of their labour at the end; learning has never been so delicious!

Computing Excellence



We are delighted that in January Leighton Park became a Code Club Centre offering support in Raspberry Pi and other coding programmes through Computer Science lessons and co-curricular activities. Later in the term the school was recognised as a Lead School in the Network of Excellence for Computing, continuing our mission to appropriately prepare students for the future.

IET Women in STEM



The Spring Term has welcomed two organisations to the Park as part of the IET Women in STEM lecture series. In partnership with UTC Reading, Kendrick and Reading Girls' School, the lectures aim to inspire students, staff and visitors interested in a diverse range of STEM topics. A team of three from Wokingham-based Volume AI joined us on Tuesday 16th January to describe the experimental artificial intelligence and conversational platforms which exist in the form of commercial cognitive websites and robotics and aim to offer a new level of customer experience.

On Wednesday 27th February Kelechi Adiele, a computer analyst from Morgan Stanley, gave a presentation regarding the myriad of opportunities offered by the financial services sector.

Both organisations gave inspirational and insightful talks, which were matched by a large number of questions from an enthusiastic audience.

Maths Round Up

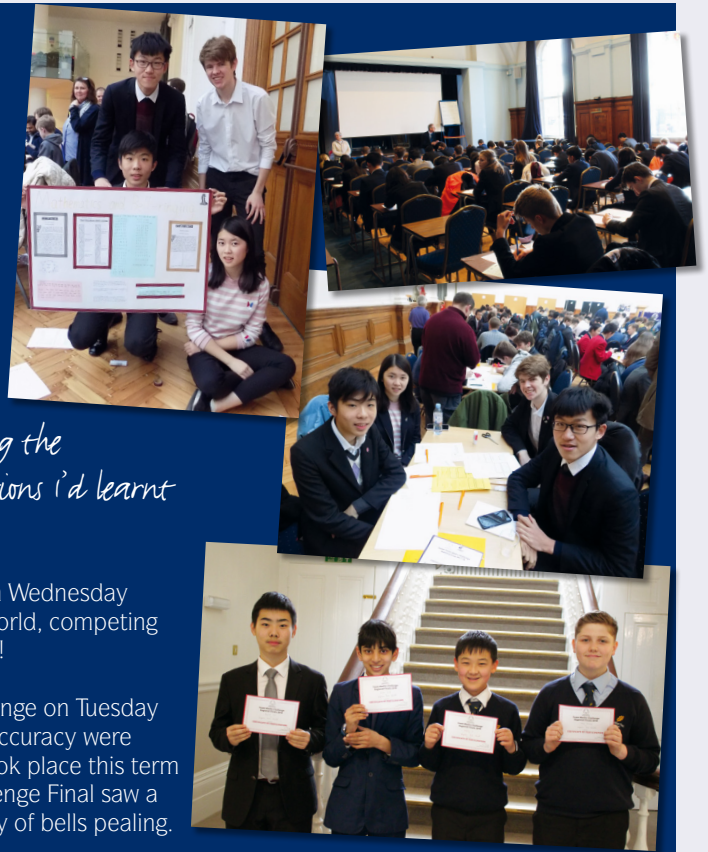
On Monday 27th February, a group of Sixth Form Mathematics pupils attended the enrichment lectures entitled 'Maths Inspiration' at the Hexagon in Reading. Everyone loved the lectures and found the real-life connections truly inspirational and enriching.

The excellent mathematical content of the interactive talks was wide ranging, covering the BBC presenter and Complexity Theorist Hannah Fry's 'A Random Talk' through Oxford mathematician, David Acheson's 'Pi, Pizza and the Electric Guitar' to the Channel 4 Engineer, Hugh Grant's 'Maths In a Spin'.

Emily Wilkes (Lower Sixth) was fascinated, commenting, *"I enjoyed seeing the practical applications of maths, especially the uses of equations I'd learnt from a textbook. You see things in a different light."*

At the other end of the school, Year 7s took part in World Math's Day on Wednesday 7th March participating in the largest online maths competition in the world, competing against four million students from over 17,000 schools in 200 countries!

Four students participated in the regional final of the Team Maths Challenge on Tuesday 20th March, concluding with an exciting maths relay where speed and accuracy were under scrutiny. The Intermediate Maths Challenge for individuals also took place this term with Years 9 to 11 eagerly awaiting their results. The Senior Maths Challenge Final saw a team of Sixth Form students tackling a challenge based on the frequency of bells pealing.



Google Girls

Girls from Years 7, 9 and 10 visited two of Google's London offices this term to find out about technologies that are changing the world.

On Thursday 25th January, Year 7 were given a presentation on the exponential impact of digital skills globally and treated to a tour of Google's innovative offices in the morning. The girls then got to work, coding programmable Sphero robots to move around a circuit that they designed. In teams, they used programming constructs such as sequence and iteration and debugging skills to ensure that their robot could undertake four laps of their circuit.

Peter Marshman, Head of Computing and ICT, added, "Through determination and resilience the girls were able to see the benefits of collaborative programming. They have already begun to develop the necessary next-generation digital skills to succeed in the future."

Years 9 and 10 got their go on 21st February, gaining an insight into working for a global brand and witnessing STEM careers first hand. The older girls also got to try their hand at programming the Sphero robots.

Angelika Etherington-Smith reflected, *"I enjoyed experimenting with the spheros and trying out different ways to improve the algorithm and make it reach the target in a faster and more efficient way. The trip showed me that STEM is not only for guys."* **Olivia Walcott** added, *"I enjoyed the programming most because it made me feel like it was something that I would be able to do and not as difficult as I thought."*



Science Week

British Science Week from 12th – 18th March presented several opportunities to celebrate STEM both on and off the Park.



We were delighted to host the second 'Big Bang Interactive' event at Leighton Park on Tuesday 13th March. The morning brought together industry professionals, academic experts and cutting edge scientists to deliver a fascinating programme of ten hands-on workshops anchored by a presentation for all participants; 'Why Should the Panda Get All the Praise' by The Ugly Animal Preservation Society.

Karen Gracie-Langrick, Deputy Head (Academic), who masterminded the event with the enthusiastic Leighton Park STEM Hub group, commented, "Like so many of our other engaging activities and events, this forms part of Leighton Park School's vision to become a STEM Centre of Excellence by 2021."

The interactive workshops covered different aspects of science, from artificial intelligence (AI) to best practice in the manufacture of a new medicine. With games involving

jelly beans, LEGO, virtual reality goggles, a race car simulator and cookie ingredients, the 290 children from fifteen different schools who attended were well and truly absorbed.

Rohini Beavon, Clinical Scientist Lead (Director), Pfizer Vaccines, who delivered two workshops said, "We were very pleased to be able to support the event again this year and from our perspective it was a great success."

Shazia Lone from Alfred Sutton Primary School, enthused, "They really engaged the pupils and demonstrated good problem based learning. They were experiences I am sure they will remember."

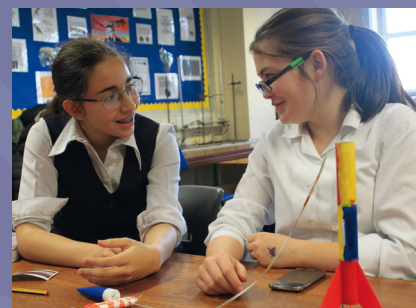
To Infinity and Beyond!



Year 9s enjoyed building and launching their own space rockets on Wednesday 14th March as Robin Mobbs from the National Space Academy came to speak to them about space exploration.



"I've delivered this talk to over 30,000 students from Land's End to Shanghai and my aims are always the same," said Robin. "To relate some of the amazing stories about the reality of space to their Physics lessons in the classroom, to show them that there is so much to be inspired by, and to bring a little bit of space to them so they can see and touch space food, rocks and parts of space rockets so they really feel that space is within reach. They may not end up being an astronaut (although someone has to be) but there are many, many jobs in the space industry and if you are interested enough and you work hard, you can get there. You can actually do that yourself."



Birmingham's Big Bang

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair at the NEC, Birmingham was the STEM destination of choice on Saturday 17th March. The event enabled students to view award-winning theatre shows, participate in interactive workshops and visit exhibits and careers stalls, bringing classroom learning to life on a large scale.

Year 7 and 8s visited the 3D printing stand learning how confectionary can be produced from CAD software through the implementation of a series of finite layers of ingredients. Some of the Year 10 and

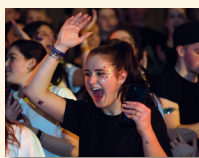


Photos courtesy of Arun Bright-Thomas (Year 7)

11 students visited the stands of major Formula One constructors, discovering the different roles within such teams, including aerodynamics and materials science. Students also watched a number of outstanding theatre performances on the Big Bang stages, including 'Gastronaut and the Quantum Mechanical Chocolate Factory' and the 'Wateraid Minecraft Show'.

House Music

Field's House Music Hat-Trick



House Music was back on Thursday 15th March, with the customary cacophony from students, chanting, cheering and clanging pots and pans, bursting with anticipation for the evening as they entered Main Hall.

The four Senior Houses battled against each other for the House Music cup and students from Year 9 to Sixth Form astounded the audience with their incredible and impressive talent. Director of Music, **Rosemary Scales**, summed up the occasion, "It's a phenomenal event; it's a mixture between a gig, a rugby match and a concert! The students think it is the very best thing that happens all year!"

Silence fell as Grove House kicked off round one, with **Ravi Nathwani** (Upper Sixth), performing on the classical guitar. Reckitt followed with a performance by **Wallance Chen** (Lower Sixth) on the Erhu, an unusual Chinese instrument, essentially a fiddle with two strings which sounds similar to a violin. Field House's **Lucy Pither** (Year 9) sang an uplifting number from the musical 'A Little Princess' and School House's **Henry Middleton** (Upper Sixth) closed the round with a brilliant exhibition of oboe playing.

Main Hall erupted in deafening whoops and applause for their fellow students before the Original Composition category began, consisting of 'Peascod Street' by **Johnny Balaes** (Year 10), 'Ascension' by **Joe Gipple** (Year 10), 'Autumn Dusk', **Tony Chen** (Upper Sixth) and 'Disconnected' by **Felix Ratigan** (Year 11).

Next, the small ensembles took to the stage and performed covers of well-known songs: 'The Only Exception', 'Unsteady', 'Use Somebody' and 'Florescent Adolescent'. After more drumming of feet and applause each House took turns performing the large ensemble where Houses sang and danced making it impossible for all those watching not to join in! 'Crazy = Genius', 'Black or White', 'A Blast from the Past' and 'You're the One that I Want' had everyone in Main Hall singing and dancing. With such enthusiastic performances it was impossible to know which House would lift the trophy after the judges' deliberation!

Others had their moment in the spotlight during the adjudication time as Fryer Voices sang two songs, and three teachers also took

to the stage to amaze students with their own secret talents, **Pablo Gorostidi Perez**, Modern Languages teacher performing opera, **Tom Rawlings**, English teacher singing 'Human' and **Kate Kennedy**, Resident Music Graduate, performing an original 80s mashup and 'Hometown Glory'.

Four exceptional judges with musical backgrounds joined **Nigel Williams**, Head, in deciding the winner: Dwight Pile-Gray, professional French Horn player, Zoe Morfakis from The Official Charts Company in London, Paul Cosh, Orchestral Musician and Corrine Chinnici, Radio Journalist. After some difficult decision making the results revealed victory for Field House for the third year running, as they retained the House Music cup. Grove House were declared winners of the Ballard Baton, the award for the House that has shown the greatest community spirit in preparation for, and performance at, House Music.

Photographs by Nigel Blain

Music & Drama

Scholars' Concert

Those that braved the weather on Wednesday 28th February were rewarded with a wonderful evening from our Music scholars, who all brilliantly played their part in a delightfully eclectic programme. From Chopin to Einaudi, Bach to Clapton and Satriani to Schubert, our current crop of scholars demonstrated how musically versatile they all are. Some wonderful performances from a very talented group of students.



Maskerade

Witches, greed, murder, art, beauty, comedy and opera; Year 7s experienced them all on Monday 15th January at the Progress Theatre in Reading.

The students were treated to an adaption of Terry Pratchett's 'Maskerade' in which a ghost haunts the Ankh Morpork opera house, a witch wants a change of career and someone is killing off the cast. Pratchett's usual sense of cynicism and fun was delivered with perfect comic timing, including the longest death scene in theatre!



"I think it was really good and very funny and definitely something the English Department should do again." commented **Daniel Aram**.

Jocelyn Eddy added, "My favourite part was the cat. It was an amazing experience and loads of fun to watch."

Open Mic UK

Following months of successfully contested heats, Saturday 20th January saw our very own **Johnny Balaes** (Year 10) at The NEC in Birmingham for the Open Mic UK Grand Final.

The competition, which has been running since

September 2017, aims to encourage new talent and recognises young singer / songwriters who can enter by age category. Over 3,500 hopefuls entered the Under 16s group and Johnny's musical skills took him to the Grand Final, as one of the best contestants in his category.

"I write all the time so I thought I would perform one of my own songs in the final. I knew the judges were looking for originality." explained Johnny, "I wasn't expecting that much out of it as I've never entered a competition like this before but I won the song writing competition with 'Never Let You Go' and I made it to the finals for my age group in the singing."

Amazing Amadeus!

On Friday 12th January, a group of Year 11 and Sixth Form Drama students enjoyed 'Amadeus' at the National Theatre in London.

A Level Drama student, **Peter Smart** (Upper Sixth), was impressed by his experience, "The story is as immensely powerful as ever in 2018 especially given its overarching themes of ambition and jealousy. The second act in particular carried a serious emotional impact that was palpable in the theatre. I found the use of an orchestra on stage really elevated the text to new heights creating a powerful dramatic atmosphere that would not otherwise be possible with recorded music."

At the end of the term on Thursday 22nd March, Michael Lyle who is currently appearing in Amadeus at the National Theatre, delivered a workshop to A Level students in Main Hall that explored how to get the best from a text. Michael spoke about the rehearsal process for Amadeus, shared his thoughts about Drama School training and spent time answering questions from inspired students.



Parade

Students from Year 10 to Upper Sixth put on yet another memorable Senior Production between 6th and 9th February as they performed the dramatic musical 'Parade' by Alfred Uhry and Jason Robert Brown. Set in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1913, Leo Frank, a Jewish factory manager, is falsely accused of murdering a young girl. Only his wife believes his innocence and his plight is quickly caught up in the contemporary political manipulation of anti-semitic and racial prejudice.

"Parade was excellent and a resounding success on so many levels - in particular for the range and inclusivity of such student talent." commented **Karen Gracie-Langrick**, Deputy Head (Academic).

Many parents were also prolific in their praise:

"Thank you for the wonderful production of Parade, I went three times and got more out of it every time I went. Very well done to everyone. The orchestra was brilliant and I thought there was some outstanding singing, particularly from Mr and Mrs Franks who had me in tears every night; the drunk reporter and the escaped convict."

"It was great to see so many talented students given the chance to take part and I LOVED the music!"

"Well done for the most brilliant show and for giving my son the opportunity to take part. I never would have believed the boy who doesn't like to be centre of attention in front of strangers could get up on the stage and perform. I think it's a great testament to the atmosphere at Leighton Park that he did."



The Show Must Go On!

Former West End actress, Louise Gilmour, visited the Park on Wednesday 31st January, six days before the opening show, to give the girls behind the scenes a seminar on creating stage make-up. The girls had fun experimenting as they were given characters by Louise which they took in turns to bring to life on their partner.

The following day the girls enjoyed an interesting workshop on costume design with Rachel Woodhouse, Costume

Supervisor for Mary Poppins International. Rachel explained how she gets all of the fabrics together and brings ideas to life, showing the girls Mary Poppins' costumes in her design 'Bibles' as well as a signed pair of Darcey Bussell's ballet shoes.



Library

It's Marvellous!

On Wednesday 21st February Fryer House enjoyed a presentation about Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity from Nicky West, the charity's Community Fundraising and Engagement Manager. The week before Book Week was the perfect time to introduce the beneficiary of the commission earned from book sales during Book Week and at other book events planned for this year. The Marvellous Children's Charity funds specialist nurses who support seriously ill children and their families.



Buzzing in the Book Shop!

Year groups from across the school were delighted to see the return of the Book Shop to the Cadbury Room at the end of February, brimming with recommended reads, new novels and inspiring choices. Fryer Book Club chose books for the Library's stock as well as their own shelves and most students had the opportunity to browse the displays during English and Library lessons.



Fantastic Beasts Triumph!

The third Harry Potter book night hosted at Leighton Park was a triumph for Fryer's team, Fantastic Beasts. Slytherin (School), Gryffindor (Grove), Hufflepuff (Field) and Ravenclaw (Reckitt) clearly underestimated the enthusiasm of their younger rivals with Fryer taking the prizes for both the quiz and the most creative costumes! Wearing Hogwarts' House colours or dressing up as a character from the series, themed refreshments and some questions even J K Rowling might struggle to answer courtesy of Librarian, **Chris Routh**, made the evening thoroughly enjoyable.



Teri Terry Talks

Author of the Dark Matter and Slated trilogies for teenagers, Teri Terry, delivered two excellent talks for Year 9 students from Leighton Park and Reading Girls' School on Thursday 8th February. She explained how her latest books were inspired by an article in New Scientist about how we might cope in the event of a plague.

Ghosts of Shanghai

Year 8 students from Leighton Park, Dolphin School and Crosfields School welcomed our Patron of Reading, Julian Sedgwick, to Peckover Hall on 25th January to launch the third and final book in his thrilling Ghosts of Shanghai series, 'Return to the City of Ghosts'. The afternoon was followed by an evening cocktail reception. **Chris Routh**, Librarian, who organised both events said, "The evening provided the ideal opportunity for parents and staff to meet Julian who will be working with the school for the next three years."



Participating in Book Awards

Four lucky members of Fryer Book Club will be attending the awards ceremony for the Federation of Children's Book Groups' Children's Book Award in London on Saturday 9th June. As a member of one of the twelve testing groups in the country, Leighton Park has received bags of newly published books to read and rate over the last twelve months, and Book Club members are now busy reviewing the shortlisted titles before their final vote. This is the only national book award voted for entirely by children.

The school is also participating in a number of other book awards including the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards (Year 10); the Excelsior Award (open to all); and the School Library Association Information Book Award (Year 7 and 8).

Art & Design

Cityscapes in Charcoal



Year 10 explored urban themes in a workshop with artist Jeanette Barnes on Wednesday 7th February. Using photographs and their imaginations the group created a variety of dark and expressive pieces in charcoal drawing.



Galvanize

Photos can tell stories within a split second, capture a subtlety not noticed from the everyday, or transport us to a moment in time in a far off land. The Galvanize exhibition of 46 photos were selected from Leighton Park's very own international, playful, creative, curious, and mindful community and displayed in Peckover corridors at the end of term.



IB Exhibition

Skillful creations by Upper Sixth International Baccalaureate Art students **Serafina Lee** and **Shirin Schnelle** were exhibited in the Peckover Gallery at the end of term. Head of Art, **Mark Wood**, noted, "The pair have worked extremely hard to create work and curate their own unique show of talent."



Urban Inspiration



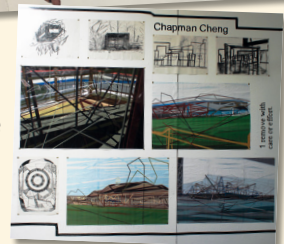
Year 10 Art and Textiles students headed for the Tate Modern on Wednesday 17th January and were treated to a vast array of contemporary art and interactive installations. The structure of the former power station offered inspiration as drawings were made 'Under, Over and Through' the vast spaces.

Next, students ventured to the Square Mile to explore its constantly changing architecture. Clear skies provided the perfect backdrop for students to brush up on their photography skills, capturing abstract angles and reflections at every turn.

After a visit to the Barbican, with its contrasting brutalist blocks and spaces, the focus shifted towards the final week of the sold out show by urban expressionist, Jean Micheal-Basquiat. The exhibition gave everyone a chance to broaden their appreciation of Art and reflect on some of the marks, patterns and faces witnessed in the urban jungle.

Artists in Oakview

GCSE work by **Millie Dean-Lewis** (Year 11) from her portfolio 'People and Places', opened the Oakview display in January. Taking her immediate family as the perfect muse, Millie's colourful display is a melange of figures, lines and portraits.



"I especially like producing images of faces and think that the huge variety of facial features is interesting. People change every day and I find that inspiring," explains Millie.

As the spring term brought snow to the park, slowing the progress of the new Michael Malnick Centre, **Chapman Cheng** (Upper Sixth) persisted in his documentation of the changing structural lines of its architecture and supporting framework.

"Next year I hope to go on and study interior architecture at university, which should fuse my interest and skills learned in Art and DT during my time at Leighton Park." reflected Chapman, "I love breaking things down in order to redesign and redefine the aesthetic."



Sam Heath

Graduate Artist in Residence, **Sam Heath**, curated and exhibited in a group exhibition of self-portraits at Mercer Chance Gallery, London, called 'Through the Looking Glass' in March. He also won The Harry Walker Young Artists Prize at this year's Bath Society of Artists exhibition on display at the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath, until 12th May.



Sport

Elite Sport

Daisy Butterworth (Upper Sixth) continues to make waves in Rowing in the final three time trial races, Heads of the Season, for Henley Rowing Club. The 'Women's Eights Head' from Chiswick Bridge to Putney was held on Saturday 10th March with Daisy's eight winning the schools' pennant. The following day the 'Schools' Head' saw Daisy's crew beat over 300 crews as well as the seven year old course record.



Diamond Edwards (Year 9) was selected to train and play with the England Football U15 squad over the February half-term. Diamond trained at St. George's Park and then played against Belgium in midfield. Head of Football and Boys' Games, Tim Green, said "Diamond has improved as a technician and athlete over the last two years and his call up to the U15 squad is well deserved."



Kate Hipkins (Year 11) was awarded her Squadkit scholarship on 15th March from four-time Olympian, Gold medallist and OBE recipient, Kate Richardson-Walsh. The GB Hockey captain delivered a fantastic masterclass to Leighton Park's most promising Hockey players. Kate also spent time with our Advanced Performer Programme students giving an inspiring presentation and Q&A.

Chunya Munga (Lower Sixth) was picked to attend the England U17/U18 England Rugby training camp in Bristol at the beginning of March. Head of Rugby, Alex Fox, attended one of the training days, commenting, "We are extremely proud of Chunya and the progress he is making. The hard work he puts in at school and with London Irish is really paying off and to see him playing with future England internationals is fantastic!"

Kirsty Walker (Upper Sixth) has competed for the fourth year running at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships in Leeds. Despite the freezing conditions, Kirsty achieved her greatest success to date, 2nd out of 323 U19 runners nationwide. As a member of the U19 Berkshire Girls' Team, Kirsty also came 6th in the Foyston Cup against 48 other counties.

Celebrating Senior Teams!



On Friday 9th March Leighton Park held its 4th Annual Senior Sports Dinner in Oakview for the players who represent our senior sporting teams to reflect upon, and celebrate, the successes of the season. 'Coach's Player' and 'Player's Player' awards were presented for each team as well as three special awards; Sportsman of the Year awarded to **Joseph Blundell** (Upper Sixth); Sportswomen of the Year received by **Rhiannon Griffiths**; and the Contribution to Sport award, a new award honouring a student that has gone over and above in their support of sport at Leighton Park, to **Tom Mitchell** (Upper Sixth).



We were honoured to welcome three special guests from the world of professional sport; Bath 1st XV Rugby player and England U20 representative Levi Davis; Director of Netball at Benecos Mavericks and ex-England International player, Kat Ratnapala; and Reading FC 1st XI player, England U17 World Cup Winner and Old Leightonian, **Danny Loader**. The guests presented the awards, answered questions and gave inspirational advice from their own experiences as top sports personalities.

Netball



National Schools' Tournament

Saturday 10th March at Malvern St James saw the U18 netball team competing against schools from around the country in the ISA National Schools' Netball Tournament. The girls worked hard, putting in a fantastic effort during some tough morning matches to reach the cup final. They came away with medals and the honour of being runners up in the ISA Netball tournament, narrowly missing out on going to nationals. Congratulations to Captain **Livvy Edwards** (Year 11), **Rhiannon Griffiths** (Upper Sixth), Year 10 students, **Anna Worsfold** and **Tabby Tinniswood** and to Year 11 students, **Jasmine Walker**, **Jenny Ryan**, **Tara Stewart** and **Klara Pim**.

Reading Schools' League

Our dedicated students have trained hard to put their skills into their match play this term. In the Reading Schools' League, the U12 team finished 6th, U13s 3rd, U14s 2nd and the U15s 2nd. A special mention to Captains, **Ellie Corfield** (Year 7), **Connie Say** (Year 8), **Nicola Lee** (Year 9) and **Anna Worsfold** (Year 10) for a superb job supporting their teams.

Super 9 League

The Senior U18 1st and U18 2nd Netball teams entered the Super 9 League, where students represented Leighton Park fantastically, playing some incredible games. The U18 1st team finished 3rd in the League and the U18 2nd team 6th. Captain **Livvy Edwards** (Year 11) has shown her true dedication and outstanding netball ability on and off the court.

Fryer Rugby

The progress made in Fryer rugby this term has been remarkable. Given many of our Year 7s have never played rugby before joining us, our primary aim is to make it fun, with the development of skills and game awareness following. There are three Fryer teams: A Team won 3, lost 3; B Team won 2 and lost 2 and C Team trained each week, playing mini intra games and working towards House rugby. Some C Team players even stepped up and played for A or B Teams. Well done to Year 8s Captain **Billy Brophy** and Vice-Captain **Tommy Lindsell** for leading by example. Recognition for greatest improvement goes to Year 8s **Nikolay Jones** and **Visar Haxhilari**.



Football

Super 8s

Victorious in five out of seven league fixtures, including impressive wins against Claremont Fan Court School, Ranelagh School and Reddam House, the 1st XI were delighted to reach the final of the Super 8 Competition against Salesian College. The most exciting game of the season was against Claire's Court: trailing 4-0 with twenty minutes to go, the team's excellent self-belief and resilience saw them achieve a 4-4 draw. Over the season, Lower Sixth students, **Alex Shean** and **Enow Ojong** impressed with seven and six goals respectively. The 3rd XI were also defeated by Salesian College in the final of the Super 8 Competition in their respective league, having worked tirelessly throughout the season under the excellent leadership of Captain **Tom Mitchell** (Upper Sixth).



Reading Schools' Football League

The U14 finished top of their group in The Reading Schools' Football League, winning all four of their games against Holme Grange, Bulmershe, Wren and Oakbank. They are eagerly awaiting the playoff match to determine final placing after Easter.

Sixth Form

Feminist Philosophy

On Monday 22nd January IB Philosophy students and members of the Young Philosophers' Club visited The Guardian offices in London for a lecture on the history of feminism from Hannah Dawson, Professor at King's College, London.

The opportunity developed students' understanding of feminism and feminist thought, raising their academic ambitions. "The lectures offered a wonderful insight and discussion into one of humankind's oldest issues and was also a great trip out for anyone looking to study IB Philosophy - the level of discussion and thought was exceptional" commented **Jonty Hyde** (Upper Sixth).

"It was a very stimulating lecture and many of the philosophical issues that have confronted and continue to confront feminist thinkers over the years were discussed including questions of legal, social, and political equality, rights, liberation, societal norms and expectations." added Beliefs and Values teacher, **Paulo Arruda**.



Psychologists in London

Lower Sixth Psychology students visited both the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum on Thursday 25th January, focussing on exhibitions covered by their A Level specification. Exploring the NHM's Human Biology section and the Science Museum's 'Who Am I?' and 'Journeys Through Medicine' displays, the students picked up some useful knowledge to support their summer exams and their curriculum in the Upper Sixth. "I had a great time exploring areas of Psychology that I haven't learned yet" commented **Owen Say**. **Alaska Engelen** added, "There is lots of detail in the museum about the function of our brains which was really fascinating". **Tilly Beckett** agreed, saying, "It was great to learn about phobias and brain development!"



UCAS Convention

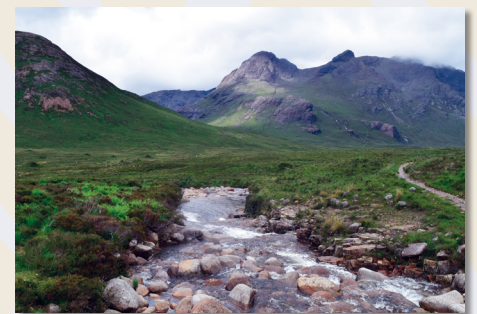
The University of Surrey's UCAS Higher Education Convention on Monday 12th March offered Lower Sixth students the opportunity to find out more about what and where to study beyond Leighton Park. Representatives and students from universities and colleges from across the UK were available to discuss course options, distribute prospectuses and answer queries about student life. There were also stands representing gap year opportunities for those considering a year out after the Upper Sixth.

EXPO 2018

Head of Teaching and Learning, **Ken Sullivan**, was pleased to see so much interest in the seventh annual EXPO from students, staff and parents celebrating a year's worth of research, writing and creativity. Monday 29th January saw Upper Sixth students tackling their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and those undertaking their Extended Essay for the International Baccalaureate present their projects in a fascinating series of lectures, delivered with passion and aplomb. Topics as diverse as privatising public transport, feminism and misogyny, the perfect theme park and travel to Mars gave the appreciative audience an enjoyable and intellectually engaging evening.



Travelling the World



Penny Wallington, Archives Project Specialist, has been raising the profile of the Leighton Park Travel Scholarship this term with the Upper Sixth. With up to £1,000 available applicants are encouraged to apply for financial support for their proposed adventure next summer. The Travel Scholarship Committee consider the applicant's capacity to profit by the experience, the value and the imaginativeness of the trip planned and the quality of the preparation. The winner will be announced at Leaver's Day in May.

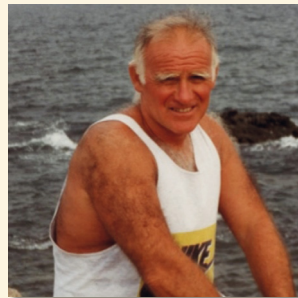
LP Community

Remembering Bernard Perrett

Sunday 7th January was the day of **Bernard Perrett's** memorial unveiling on the Park, attended by Bernard's family, Old Leightonians and former parents. The memorial stone and bench are situated by the pond.

Bernard was an inspirational member of staff and his career at Leighton Park spanned three decades. Many OLs wanted to remember him and donated to erect a permanent memorial to him and to an ongoing bursary fund in his name.

Bernard was Head of PE but he will undoubtedly be remembered most for his passionate enthusiasm as an internationally successful canoe coach. Under his aegis,



countless Leighton Park students not only became high achievers in the canoeing world, developing greatly in their personal skills and self-confidence.

Bernard's daughter Katy said, *"We were overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness given by the staff. Every care was given and the event reflected the ethos of the school. As a family we are grateful for such a wonderful event. Thank you."*

OL Dramatics

Old Leightonian **Billy Sy** (Grove 2003) returned to Leighton Park on 21st February to hold a workshop for GCSE Drama students. Billy graduated from Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London with an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice, specialised in performing and now works as an actor, theatre director, movement director and writer in Hong Kong.

"I really enjoyed this workshop. It was hard work and we had to repeat exercises to see the difference and improvements in our skills. I will definitely use this in the future." said **Harrison Mitchell** (Year 10).

Billy commented, "My visit was an absolute pleasure and privilege. So many memories came back when I revisited the school campus, especially the drama studio and the school hall. These are the places where I set the foundation of my understanding of theatre and realised what I wanted to do for my career."



Mark Simmons in Oz

While on sabbatical in Australia, **Mark Simmons**, Senior Master and Head of Middle School, has met some of our antipodean community. **Lucie**

Morris-Marr (Grove 1993), now in Melbourne, said, "I was delighted to meet Mark for lunch. An absolutely incredible ambassador for Leighton Park. A man of integrity and so caring and genuine. It reminded me what Leighton Park is all about and I was so touched that he wanted to know about my life and career after leaving the school."



OLs at General Meeting

Several members of the OL and Friends communities attended General Meeting on Saturday 17th March.

Paul Bowers Isaacson, Governor from 2009 to 2015, donated a portrait of **Richard Rodney Bennett** (Reckitt 1953) to the school. Richard was one of the most distinguished soundtrack composers of his era, contributing to 50 films and receiving Oscar nominations for his work on 'Far from the Madding Crowd', 'Nicholas and Alexandra', and 'Murder on the Orient Express'.

Claire Herford, representing Bristol Area Meeting, presented a book about her father **Martin Herford** was the most decorated doctor of World War Two. Claire recounted that OL **Hugh Dawson** (School 1943) suggested she give the school a copy of the book eighteen years ago. She brought the letter from Hugh with her only to discover that he was also at General Meeting!



PSC

Parade Bar

No trip to the theatre is complete without pre-show and interval drinks and the PSC did a sterling job supporting the senior production of Parade in February by supplying a well-stocked and smooth running bar. Our thanks to the parents and community members who helped out. Well done for not only providing a much appreciated service to our theatre-goers but also for helping us raise £473.06 for PSC supported projects.



Book Group

The PSC Book Group has enjoyed another term of literature, sharing Neil Gaiman's 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane' and travelled to London together with the OL Book Group to support Jenny Quintana's book launch for 'The Missing Girl'. Due to the snow, our 'Jenny Quintana in Conversation' event was rescheduled to 19th April, 7.00-9.00pm in the Library.



The next meeting is on 30th April, to discuss Madeleine Thien's moving novel 'Do not say we have nothing' and 'A Man called Ove' by Fredrick Backman (postponed from Spring Term). The final meeting of the year is 18th June with 'Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont' by Elizabeth Taylor. We'd love to see you there!

Nearly New Shop

The Nearly New shop is going from strength to strength not only providing spare or extra school jumpers and kit, but also raising funds for the Amicus charities. It will be open again with clothing for Year 7 to Upper Sixth for sale during the summer term. Please see the 'Parents' page on the website and the weekly eBulletin for dates.

What's Coming Up

- In Conversation with Author, Jenny Quintana 19th April, 7.00-9.00pm
- PSC Committee Meeting 24th April, 6.30-8.30pm, Cadbury Room
- PSC Book Group 30th April and 18th June, 7.00 - 8.45pm in the Library
- PSC Committee Meeting 5th June, 6.30-8.30pm, Cadbury Room
- Music for a Summer's Evening 30th June, from 2.00pm

Family Quiz Night

There was a fabulous turn out for the annual PSC Family Quiz Night on Saturday 27th January, with 112 people attending. Thanks must go to the brilliant Thomas Franks team who provided the all-important curry for dinner. Quiz teams were glad they brought students to help with some of the more taxing questions about current popstars and the pH level of milk, but it was the 'Hairbrains' that stole victory from the lesser spotted 'Tequila Mockingbirds'. Representing Leighton Park staff, the 'Detention Squad' will have to try harder if they want to win next year!!



Our special thanks also to **Tim Dean-Lewis** for acting as Quizmaster and **Eme Dean-Lewis** for being his able assistant. We are delighted to report that all the fun helped to raise £642.79 towards the autumn term Africa trips.



Call to Action!

Summer term is coming! Please look out for our calls to action to support 'Music for a Summer's Evening' – a perfect opportunity for our community to flex their barbecuing muscles. If you would like to help with the PSC generally or at a particular event, don't be shy. We'd love to hear from you. You can contact us through psc@leightonpark.com

