

the park

the Leighton Park School newsletter

Summer 2018



SIMPLICITY TRUTH RESPECT INTEGRITY PEACE EQUALITY SUSTAINABILITY

STEAM Careers Fair
Music for a Summer's Day
Creativity Showcase at ArtEx3

Headlines



As the new Head, the more I find out about Leighton Park the more enthusiastic I become. Reading through these pages, I am full of admiration for what this school currently achieves and excitement for a very promising future.

My interest in Leighton Park first began as an inspector of the School where I saw

first-hand the Quaker principles at work, underpinning life on the Park and making a positive impact on students. There has never been a more important moment for schools to encourage those values in young people of integrity, mindfulness and self-awareness. It is a School with real soul, and this is testament to the hard work of our students and staff.

The stories contained in this edition of The Park reinforce that these values have currency and purpose. The emphasis on creative problem solving, contextualising learning and inspiring a love of learning shows a commitment to finding truth, not in an abstract sense but in a tangible way to work towards a fairer, more peaceful and more sustainable future. Students will need these skills in the rapidly changing world we live in.

The boundless creativity shown by our students in these pages is not for show. It is vital that we celebrate talent in all its guises, supporting our students to grow in confidence and live adventurously. Fully developing our talents helps us to live with

integrity and purpose. Recognising and celebrating our own talents helps us to respect the talents and qualities of others.

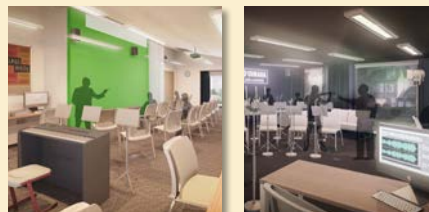
I look forward to working with parents, students and colleagues to further build on Leighton Park's distinctive identity, ensuring that every student is well prepared for life beyond school, with the best possible attitudes and grades. We expect our students to be the best possible versions of themselves and the school must hold itself to this same standard. With the support of parents and the wider community, the exciting school reflected in these pages is only the start of the wonderful school we have in prospect.

Matthew Judd
Head

Michael Malnick Centre



Our contractor, Basil Wyatt, has been busy completing the electrical, heating and mechanical installations inside the new Michael Malnick Centre for music and media. We are excited that classrooms and practice rooms are being decorated and lighting installed. Outside the building, external works have started in earnest which will create high quality landscaping, terracing and a new visitor car park. The outdoor theatre is taking shape with the stage area now being completed. Students are keen to get inside and start being creative in the new Radio 1 inspired Yamaha 'Live Lounge' and custom-built media room with a green screen, lighting, editing equipment and surround sound system. We are looking forward to the building opening in the new term.



Contents

Exam Results
page three

News
pages four, five and six

The Great Outdoors
page seven

Humanities
page eight

Art and Design
page nine

STEM
pages ten and eleven

Languages
page twelve

Library
page thirteen

Music and Drama
pages fourteen and 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 front cover image was taken during one of the Year 7 sprint races on Sports Day, July 2018.

Exam Results

A Level Excellence



On Thursday 16th August it was a delight to see so many smiling faces on the Park as excited students grabbed their brollies and braved the downpours to collect their A Level results.

The percentage of A*-B grades increased to 61.7% this year. **Jonty Hyde** was one of many happy faces, achieving four A Levels (A*AAB) and awarded a 7, the highest possible mark, in the IB Philosophy module.

Rowan Taylor, who at 15 years old is the school's youngest A Level candidate,

achieved an A grade for her Creative Writing in Year 10.

Seb Milhofer, one of the school's STEM Ambassadors, is taking his 3 A* grades to read Maths at Bristol next year. "I'm looking forward to new experiences in Bristol but I've enjoyed life at Leighton Park and will miss the people," he commented. Another STEM Ambassador, **Olly Nicholls**, secured 3 A grades allowing him to go on to study Physics at Bath. "It's nice to have it all over," he commented, "You have to work hard and motivate yourself in the Sixth Form. I did work hard; what you put in, you get out."

GCSEs Galore!

Leighton Park's 80-strong cohort of Year 11 students were delighted with their GCSE results on Thursday 23rd August.

Karen Gracie-Langrick, Deputy Head (Academic), commented, "These are the best results we've had in a decade. The pass rate for 5+ GCSEs with grades 4-9 equivalent is up by 7% year on year, with over 50% of our students gaining grades at the highest level, 7-9 or equivalent. The cohort have achieved some outstanding grades and I'm proud that the students' own efforts, supported by the capability and commitment of our academic staff, have resulted in such an excellent set of results."

"I'm really happy! Just so, so happy! I didn't expect such good results." grinned a

delighted **Nikki Wilson**. Fellow A Level musician, **Sam Caley** was also celebrating this morning:

"I'm extremely happy with my results and am grateful to my teachers for their support."

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects have been especially successful with Physics 92% grades 7-9, Chemistry 72% grades 7-9, Biology 69% grades 7-9 and Design Technology 75% grades 7-9.

IB Students Celebrate



On Friday 6th July, students studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme received their results, marking the end of their school career.

Serafina Lee, scored 40 points, securing her place at Bristol to read English Literature. "I'm still shocked now; it's just a feeling of disbelief! It was a stressful experience but definitely worth it!"

Leighton Park students averaged a score of 30.2, with four of the nine candidates

also gaining a bilingual diploma. Sixth Form and IBDP Co-ordinator, **Helen Taylor**, commented, "I am really pleased with the results our students have achieved. The breadth of the education they have received on the IBDP means they can go on to study a wide range of courses, equipped with a skill set that will stand them in good stead in this rapidly-changing world."



News



Final Collect

On Friday 6th July, students gathered in Main Hall for Final Collect where awards were announced, speeches were made and memories recalled before students departed for their summer holidays.

Congratulations to our new Head Girl, **Keirah Nabena**, Head Boy, **Chunya Munga**, Deputy Head Girl, **Emma Hipkins**, and Deputy Head Boy, **Jameson Capstick**. The winner of the Matthew Pott Peace Award, which encourages students of all ages to promote peace through creative expression, was awarded to **Esther McElvenny** (Year 11).



Year 11 Celebrations



At the end of term, Year 11s decorated the hoarding outside Old School in front of the Michael Malnick Centre for music and media in yellow and blue before Exam Leave. Later in the term, elegantly attired in black tie and cocktail dresses, the same students celebrated the end of their GCSEs in Oakview on the evening of Wednesday 20th June at the Year 11 Prom. They enjoyed a brilliant night with great food and lots of laughs, celebrating the many awards including 'Most likely to become a spy for MI6' and 'Biggest Brainiac', with the Prom King and Queen presented to **Matthew Monk** and **Ella Shaw**.



Warhammer Trip

The four-strong Warhammer team with members from Year 7 to the Upper Sixth battled their way through the Regional Semi-Finals of the UK Schools Warhammer League in Nottingham this term. Facing challenging opposition from some experienced players, including a group from the renowned Warhammer institution, the Royal Grammar School, the team played three matches with dedicated enthusiasm.

"It was tough," commented **Simon Booth**, Warhammer Club leader and Physics teacher, *"but the boys did well to reach the semi-finals. The competition was really strong and there were a lot of sixth Formers playing. Two of our team are still in Fryer. I'm glad we went, it was a worthwhile experience."*



Fryer Festival



Saturday 23rd June saw parents, grandparents, friends and family join Year 7 and 8 on the Park for the inimitable Fryer Festival 2018!

With everything from Hamlet in fifteen minutes to slime making, this year's event was an eclectic mix of talent showcasing dance, drama, public speaking, sport, LEGO, creative arts, film and of course, some wonderful music. Our Lower School students were proud to share their work with their nearest and dearest and to welcome our incoming Fryers to the school community. Those who were able to join us found their energy and enthusiasm as enjoyable as the summer weather and many visitors were keen to get involved with activities such as yoga, clay modelling and LAMDA. Well done to **Jocelyn Eddy** and **Harriet Randall** (Year 7), the winners of the Science Cake Bake-Off competition.

For several Year 8s it was an opportunity to present their Fryer Project Qualifications a second time, subsequent to the Junior Expo. The Fryer Quad offered a peaceful space away from the frenetic jumping, catching, ball games and running taking place towards Ten Acre Field, with comfortable beanbags providing seats for poetry writing and a never-ending collaborative story mounted on the wall.

The JB Fryer Award, given annually in recognition of the boy and the girl who have contributed the most to Fryer through their involvement in activities, lessons, House life and willingness to embrace the ethos of the school, deservedly went to **Billy Brophy** and to **Eva van den Berg** (Year 8).

Global Mindedness Week

The influence of technology on the world around us was the focus for our Year 9's Global Mindedness Week in June. With the title of 'Global Tech: Utopia or Dystopia?' students were challenged to find the positives and negatives within five areas of cutting edge technology. Organiser and Head of English, **Tom Rawlings**, was keen to emphasise the links between Quakerism and the importance of independent thought, paraphrasing 'Advice and Practice' for the students: "Remember your responsibility as citizens. Do not be content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert and questioning mind. Seek to discover the

causes of social unrest, injustice and fear; try to discern the new growing-points in social and economic life. Work for an order of society which will allow everyone to develop their capacities."

Year 9s have explored the worldwide impact of artificial intelligence and robots, energy, the internet and social media, transportation and bio-technology.

It was a busy few days with each team asked to produce a poster, a mood board, a magazine, an online infographic, a reflection video and to prepare for the debate in the final session.

Junior Expo



On Friday 15th June the second annual presentation evening by Year 8s took place in Peckover Hall as students inspired and impressed their audiences with the findings of their research projects.

Having completed a whole term of research, writing and creativity, the presentation evening was an opportunity for students to celebrate their work in a public manner. Project themes included; 'Are crypto-currencies the future?', 'The truth about genetic modification', 'Why should we be excited about the future of humanity?' and many more intriguing topics! The presentations were assessed on the students' understanding and ownership of their research and at the end, members from the audience asked questions, which drew out the true essence of each student's project.

Ken Sullivan, Head of Teaching and Learning, was delighted with the outcome of the evening,

"Year 8s have raised the bar on the quality of communication and the average assessment by the staff supervisors was over 75%."



The debate was the culmination of the whole project and brought students together to showcase their work to one another and to the staff who have supervised their activities over the preceding days.

News

Master Chef: The Final

With a round of signature dishes under their belts and the challenge of creating an innovative dish, the three finalists of Leighton Park School's Master Chef 2018 were ready to face the last round on Friday 27th April.

The meals all looked delicious with **Arturo Paone** (Year 7), creating Kaisermarren and an accompanying fruit juice drink; **Nicola Lee** (Year 9) cooking duck breast with cauliflower two ways and a rhubarb sauce, with a pear and frangipane pudding and **Tom Rawlings**, Head of English, cooking tea-smoked mackerel, with mackerel ceviche, a duck Penang and Thai papaya salad.

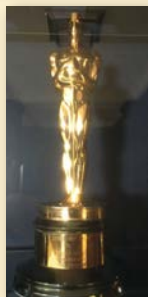
After an hour of chopping, stirring, bubbling, roasting, mixing and surprisingly little panicking, the meals were presented.

Alessandro Albanese, Catering Manager for the school's caterers, Thomas Franks and the mastermind behind the competition enthused, "Nicola is the deserved winner, we were really impressed by her, the preparation was fantastic, she made everything from scratch and brought in really interesting flavour combinations."



Nicola was delighted by the result, "It feels really good. I was so worried when I couldn't get the blender to work. I love to cook for my family, particularly desserts."

The Home of UK Music



On Tuesday 15th May twenty lucky Year 10 students visited the iconic Abbey Road Studios and Pinewood Studios.

Infamous as the birthplace for the next generation of music producers and sound engineers, students learnt about the Advanced Diploma in Music Production and Sound Engineering offered by the Abbey Road Institute, building on the fantastic opportunities offered by our music and media curriculum and the Education Partnership we have built with Yamaha. In the afternoon, students explored the expansive Pinewood Studios as guests of our friends at Creative Media Skills.

"The trip was a wonderful experience. I feel like I learned a huge amount just from seeing these places. I really enjoyed interviewing David Brown (Thor, Guardians

of the Galaxy, Game of Thrones) and learning more from him about the process of film production." enthused **Catherine Douneen**.

"The trip was very good as it gave me ideas for my possible future if I was to go into the film arts. I learned how complex the production of movies and films are and how important everyone is in working collectively." commented **Joseph Gipple**.

"Going to Abbey Road Studios and seeing a Custom 75 and other equipment and layouts of studios was well worth the journey. At Pinewood the experience of visiting some areas that were being filmed last year and seeing a sneak preview of some of the stages was incredible." explained **Luke Eddowes**.

Coding in LEGOLAND

Members of the Fryer Coding Club visited LEGOLAND Windsor on Tuesday 3rd July to take part in a Lego robotics course! They had a great time undertaking space themed coding 'missions' and rounded off a day of hard work exploring the park and its rides.



The Great Outdoors

Welsh Adventures

At the end of the summer term, Year 8 students ventured to west Wales, where they took part in three thrill-seeking activities, learning leadership skills and developing confidence outside their comfort zones.

Kayakers enjoyed competitions such as who could paddle the fastest, how many people could get on one kayak and who can jump off them.

Coasteering was a new sport for most, and students had fun jumping into the sea, encountering a range of sea life and soaking up the adrenaline and excitement.

On the Whitesands Beach, our surfers were met with quiet seas for the majority of time however, some did manage to catch a few gnarly waves. Days too calm for surfing were met with surfboard games instead, involving stacking the boards, racing across as many boards as possible and building a surfboard raft, with students vying to be King of the Surfboard Castle.

The third day also involved a mud run which was fantastic for some, grubby and wet for all. Many mud hugs followed - including a surprise mud attack on some of the teachers. There were competitions to get teams to the other side the mud pit with some taking it so seriously they lost their shoes in the murky depths!



IB Ecology Day

The Lower Sixth International Baccalaureate students ventured to Warberg Nature Reserve on Saturday 12th May, high up in the Chiltern Hills. The coppiced woodland and managed meadow areas, with swathes of bluebells carpeting the woods provided idyllic surroundings for comparing biodiversity and practising sampling techniques. The trip ended with an impromptu visit to **Emily Wilkes'** grandparents for a cup of tea and chocolate cake as the group celebrated Emily's birthday!



D of E Update



Duke of Edinburgh Award participants have been busy this term completing expeditions for their Bronze and Silver Awards. The first expedition was a very wet trip to the South Chilterns but undeterred by the weather the group had considered the 6 Ps: proper planning and preparation prevents poor performance. They even remembered to bring marshmallows for the evening campfire!

By contrast, the Bronze groups that set off on their Qualifying Expeditions on Saturday 16th June, making their way to Rushall Manor Farm to camp overnight, enjoyed pleasant weather. Campers enjoyed early morning yoga and everyone was pleased to see Head of Boarding, **Myles Nash's**, new take on breakfast in bed wasn't his latest scheme for a new al fresco Boarding House! Even more pleasingly, all the groups passed!



The Big Sleep Out

Amicus, the school's fundraising group, and Lower Sixth students studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme organised 'The Big Sleep Out' on Thursday 5th July as a way of fundraising for Launchpad, a local homeless charity in Reading. Students in Year 10 and above took to the tennis courts armed with some cardboard boxes and sleeping bags and set up for the night. Fortunately for them not much protection from the elements was needed, given the scorching temperatures!



Humanities

History at Hampton Court



On Friday 15th June Year 7s visited the opulent splendor of Hampton Court Palace enriching their study of the Tudors in History.

"I really enjoyed looking around the rooms and the gardens and seeing the water features and vegetation and especially the world's biggest vine." enthused **Toby Waterer**.

"In William III's apartment there was a room which had wood paneling at the bottom and an amazingly intricate design of weapons all woven together; but they were actually real, not part of the paper!" reflected an awestruck **Harriet Randall**.

"I enjoyed visiting the Tudor kitchens and learning how food was made and stored 500 years ago. My favourite bit of the kitchen was when we saw the men who were cooking the meat on a spit over a fire and seeing how they made sausages." commented **Finlay Cowles**.

Geography in Action

Lower Sixth Geographers ventured to South Devon on 17th June where they built on their International Baccalaureate independent investigations.

"It was a great opportunity to be able to see and get a first-hand feel of the geography we have studied." reflected **Chunya Munga** "Seeing the coast in action and being able to experience how it is effected first hand really brought our understanding to life. Despite the weather on day one, we all had an excellent trip and it stands us in good stead to continue on with our course."

Matt Mackay's inquisitive mind and thirst for ever more knowledge won him the accolade of Geographer of the Trip! Delighted by his award, he commented,

"Slapton Ley was an invaluable experience and insight into geographical landscapes."



The Impact of War

On Wednesday 20th June, 42 Year 9 students visited the Imperial War Museum in London. Their main focus was the museum's outstanding Holocaust exhibition and the museum's First World War exhibits which, drawing on the museum's extensive collection of artefacts, art and film, charted the conflict through the eyes of both the people on the home and the fighting fronts. Students also visited some of the other galleries including those chronicling the history of the Second World War through to the modern day.



What the Dickens?

On Wednesday 4th July the English Department took Year 8 to the Charles Dickens Museum in London to enrich their English Literature education. There were plenty of activities for the students to enjoy, including a workshop on Dickens that focused on social issues and a guided tour around his house and the streets surrounding his home as he often wrote about his local area.

"I found the Dickens trip very enlightening as to how Charles Dickens got his inspiration."

*commented **Ava Chapman**. "I didn't realise what a troubled childhood he had, as well as the way he tried to get the higher class people to help the poor through his writing."*



Art & Design

Artex3

The stunning Artex 3 exhibition held in Peckover Hall between Friday 15th and Saturday 23rd June offered visitors an outstanding fusion of Design Technology, Textiles and Art, showcasing two years of hard work, determination and creative decision making.

From the exquisite drawings and experiments in sketchbooks to large scale painted portraits, the exhibition was a real showcase of talent. Upstairs in the gallery space, textile pieces explored interpretations of 'skin' and 'nature', whilst downstairs, artwork ranged from large portraits on canvas, responding to 'People and Places', through to high contrast photographs based on 'light' and 'the human figure'.

It was also a celebratory conclusion for many of the students who have risen to the challenge of studying both Art and DT, with professional standard products designed for industry alongside innovative takes on domestic objects, from coffee tables to electric guitars through to a quirkily robust child's bike.

Head of Art, **Mark Wood**, commented, "Each year the students at Leighton Park amaze me. They have risen to the challenge of working creatively with admirable effort and skill. Within an ever changing and accelerating world, it is always a delight to see students explore, experiment and hone their skills to create works of beauty. Be it within the context of design, fine art or textiles the skills they have learned will equip them for a creative and fulfilling life. I am massively impressed by the individuality that runs throughout this year's show; it is a credit to all involved".

Visitors of the exhibition were able to vote for their favourite piece of artwork, with the top three being **Harry Sullivan's** hand crafted guitar, **Millie Dean-Lewis's** contemplative dad and **Klara Pimm's** vibrant portraits.

The show also introduced a thoughtful collaboration with English, pairing some of the work on display with evocative poetry and prose in a booklet sold to raise money for Nepalese children's charity, Chora Chori, dedicated to nurturing talent in others less fortunate.



Portrait Painting

Sam Heath, Artist in Residence, was given the flattering but daunting task of painting the portrait of retiring Head, **Nigel Williams**.

Fortunately, Sam had just completed a couple of small portrait commissions from an exhibition last summer which convinced him he would be up for the job!

Sam enjoyed having freedom in the style of the painting; Nigel only had one specific request: the painting needed to show off the Park and specifically the Peace Pole, his pride and joy! From Christmas, Sam worked from drawings and photographs developing the piece before unveiling it to the whole school in July. Ultimately it will be displayed with portraits of the other Heads who have held the role for five years or more in Peckover Hall.

"I'm proud of the final painting especially as I've never painted something on that scale, with such high expectations or such a specific time scale. I love that the painting will sit in Peckover Hall long after I leave the school; I've left my mark. Nigel said he loves it; I think his is probably the opinion that matters most."



Artists' Spotlight

This term the artwork displayed in Oakview has been the Year 7s large collaborative portraits of Leighton Park's first, retiring and new Headmasters: **Benjamin Townson**, **Nigel Williams** and **Matthew Judd**.



STEM



STEM Success

This term we were delighted to win the ICT Facility Award, sponsored by Fujitsu, at the Education Business Awards and come second for the STEM Innovation Award out of 350 organisations in the Community Education Awards, sponsored by Costa. The achievements follow Intel and IT solutions specialists, XMA, awarding Leighton Park the Ripple Effect Prize in the autumn, recognising schools at the forefront of using technology to support student learning. The prize included an HP STEM & Creative Learning Studio, worth over £20,000, which will be installed in our new STEM classroom opening in September 2018.



TeenTech Events

Ten Year 8 students visited the Hampshire Court hotel for the annual TeenTech Event - a highly interactive STEM event with a focus on the contemporary world of Science, Engineering and Technology. Consisting of three aspects, students took part in innovation, insight and challenge zones and had fun getting creative and coming up with various unique and well thought through solutions to problems.



Two teams of Year 7 students also took part in a similar event, the TeenTech City finals at the Emirates Stadium in London on Monday 30th April. Prior to the event they designed and built miniature models of future buildings to make cities smarter, kinder and safer. The habitable dwellings had to consider global challenges such as energy usage, extreme weather, health and happiness, and suggest solutions within the model's design and construction.

At the eagerly awaited award ceremony the Fryers were delighted that they had winning entries in two categories; 'Most Fun Building' and 'Most Innovative Building', a testament to the inspired and collaborative work of both teams.

Junior Maths Challenge

Year 7s and 8s competed in the National Junior Maths Challenge on 26th April alongside 300,000 other UK secondary school students. UK Mathematics Trust runs the annual competition to inspire problem solving, test knowledge and to beat the clock, as well as the other competitors!

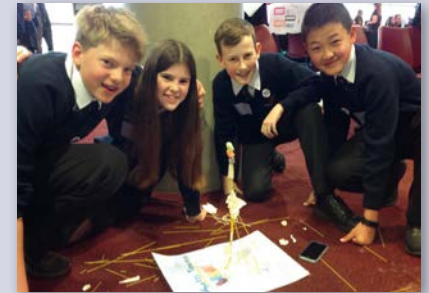


Cisco Power Girls!

Year 9 girls attended the Cisco Power Girls IT event at the UK flagship office located at Bedfont Lakes in Feltham on Thursday 26th April.

The event provided them with an understanding of the various roles available within leading IT organisations such as Cisco and the varied pathways that can be traversed from apprenticeships through to graduate programmes. They were provided with the opportunity to ask the young professionals at Cisco about their journeys, dispelling many of the myths of working practices and careers in IT.

This was followed by an inspirational presentation by Joana Calado, a Paralympic Swimmer and Data Analyst. Well done to **Nicola Lee**, who was one of the runners-up of the competition with her innovative idea of using assistive technologies to re-render posted images to remove private or personal data.



"I enjoyed the challenge when we had to work with our team to create an app. Visiting Cisco and doing the tasks we were given showed me you can use data and graphs for anything and have fun with it."
commented **Bertha Kunska**.

Chemistry Gets Competitive!



Ollie Bhatia, Nikolay Jones, Devin Sidhu and Charlie McFarlane (Year 8), took part in the nationwide Salters' Festival of Chemistry at the University of Reading on Wednesday 9th May.

The team were timed solving a murder mystery in the morning, requiring teamwork to conduct test tube experiments and chromatography. After lunch, the students moved to a University



Challenge scenario, designing an egg timer using chemical reactions.

The afternoon ended with a fun lecture entitled 'Chemical Magic Demonstration'. The audience enjoyed experiments like the hydrogen rocket, dry ice, foam towers, conical flasks with solutions that changed colour when shaken, explosions which made everyone jump, and plastic tubing in liquid nitrogen.

Biology at the Beach

Excited Lower Sixth Biologists set off for Orielton in Pembrokeshire on Wednesday 20th June for a five day field trip.

The group were exposed to a wide variety of habitats studying sand dunes, rocky shores and grassy meadows before putting the skills they had developed over the week to the test in their individual projects. The volume of number-crunching statistical work generated by the sampling techniques was balanced by some calm botanical drawing of field plants and plenty of icecream!



STEAM Career Fair

Over 200 enthusiastic students from five schools across Berkshire were lucky enough to hear Molecular Biologist, Geneticist and Science Communicator, Dr Emily Grossman, one of the nation's two Honorary STEM Ambassadors, deliver our inaugural STEAM lecture on Monday 2nd July.

Sponsored by Cisco, the lecture offered a light-hearted but insightful overview of pioneering biotechnology under the humorous heading, 'How to Build a Human.' Reflecting on the event Dr Grossman commented, "I was delighted and honoured to present the inaugural STEAM lecture at Leighton Park. It has been an amazing event and a privilege to be inspiring the scientists and engineers of tomorrow." Hema Marshall, Executive Lead for Inclusion and Diversity at Cisco UKI, said, "Dr Grossman's lecture was a fabulous start to this annual series. Emily is a wonderful and engaging STEM role model and the excitement of the students was great to see. Cisco is delighted to support this initiative as part of our broader commitment to encourage girls and boys to consider STEM careers".

The Careers Fair offers insights into professions from across the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths industries. Some of the UK's best known STEAM organisations offered guidance and advice, including representatives from Unilever, Cisco, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and Costain. Academic partners such as the Universities of Southampton and Reading, and apprenticeship advisors such as Ask Apprenticeships provided information and support on the various routes into STEAM related careers.



Medical Careers Day

On 18th June we welcomed qualified medics and the doctors of the future to the school for a medical careers day. Several of our Sixth Formers tested their knowledge and skills in medical ethics and first aid and discussed routes into medical school with the professionals.



Languages



Spanish Studies

From Sunday 17th to Friday 22nd June, seventeen Year 10 Spanish students visited Málaga, Spain. The group completed a demanding and intensive course of Spanish and enjoyed a well-deserved array of activities each day. The highlight of the week for most included the visit to La Alhambra, in Granada, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

"Having lessons completely in Spanish helped me improve my speaking and listening skills." enthused **Nuna Panunath**.

"My favourite part of the trip was going into town and speaking - or attempting to speak - Spanish to people!" reflected **Kushal Tandon**.

"Málaga was a great, fun, educational trip. Lessons were fun and engaging and I learnt many new Spanish phrases to communicate with shop cashiers and Spanish people in general." concluded **Blake Carter**.

"Malaga was fantastic. People are friendly and happy and we had so much fun learning Spanish at the same time." commented **Katya Malygina**.



Montpellier Magic

On 18th June, after almost missing their flight due to complications with the airline, the Year 10 French iGCSE group successfully landed in... Barcelona! A four hour bus transfer to Montpellier later and they were greeted by the wonderful host families with whom they were staying for the duration of the week.



The group spent every morning learning French in a structured educational environment before exploring Montpellier and experiencing different aspects of French culture in the afternoons, including a trip to Nîmes, where students saw the most well preserved Roman amphitheatre in the world.

After a marvellous week, the host families kindly dropped their visitors off at the airport to rejoin their fellow students for the return journey. Throughout the trip they all created many unforgettable memories and it was considered a truly amazing experience.

Fryers in France



At the end of the summer term, Year 7 students enjoyed an exciting week in Côte d'Opale, France. Fryers visited a traditional French bakery where the students made their own croissants and a chocolaterie to watch the masters in action. Students dined in traditional French restaurants and enjoyed exploring Boulogne after their morning French lessons. The action-packed trip also included visiting an aquarium, a theme park and water park.

"My favourite part was visiting the aquarium because I got to take loads of great pictures. I particularly liked the sea lions at the aquarium; they were so cute!" enthused **Ella Rawlins**.

"We all had a thrilling time going on lots of rides at Aqualud and Bagetelle! Nobody will ever forget such an outstanding week!"

added **Erin Perkins**.

"People were even brave enough to go on the scary, thrilling slide twister and the massive ride at the theme park, Triops. It was a trip I will never forget!" commented **Ellie Corfield**.

Chinese Culture in London

On Tuesday 3rd July, Year 7 and Year 8 Mandarin students visited the British Museum dedicated to human history, art and culture, discovering information and artefacts relating to Chinese and Asian history. Afterwards, students explored some of the more unusual Chinese supermarkets and shops and practised their Mandarin as they ordered delicious Chinese food during their fourteen course meal!



Library

Children's Book Awards 2018

There was great excitement in the literary world as the only national children's book award voted for entirely by children, the Children's Book Award, took place at The Union Jack Club this term. And even more excitement at Leighton Park because this year the Chair of the Awards, was none other than our very own Librarian, **Chis Routh**, who in her spare time has another hat as the Chair of the Federation of Children's Book Groups!



Leighton Park students from Years 7 and 8 have been involved in the voting process in their library lessons and book clubs and we were lucky enough to send four of our enthusiastic readers from Fryer to the ceremony on Saturday 9th June.

"It was a wonderful day and an experience that will stay with me forever. My favourite part was sitting next to Alice Broadway!"
commented **Lizzie Bedford** (Year 7).

"It was a great experience and it was so nice to talk to authors and ask questions about their books. My favourite bit was meeting Penny Joelson!"
said **Daniel Hewitt** (Year 8).

Authors Inspire Creativity

We were delighted to welcome back our Patron of Reading, Julian Sedgwick and author and illustrator, Alexis Deacon, on Thursday 3rd May, to explore graphic novels with Year 9 students. Joined by groups from Bulmershe School and Highdown School, students enjoyed listening to Julian's overview of the history of the genre and the process of working with his brother, Marcus Sedgwick, to create their graphic novel 'Dark Satanic Mills'.

Together, Julian and Alexis spoke about their collaboration with Marcus on an exciting new title called 'Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black'. At the end of the event students had the opportunity to buy books and have them signed, some even asked Alexis to draw characters in them!

The following day, Julian returned to the Park to meet our current Year 7 students for the first time. Starting with an introductory session in Peckover, Julian entertained the whole room with stories of his own childhood ambitions, his interest in Asian cultures and his love for circus acts, even juggling apples and asking for volunteers for a trick, which had all of the students captivated! Whilst the talk was light-hearted, the message was powerful, as Julian expressed the importance

that, whatever you do in life, it is all right to make mistakes.

"Julian's talk was really cool. He made the atmosphere quite tense when he performed his circus trick. I was quite scared and only just about trusted that everything would be ok! I am definitely going to read his stories after listening to him!"

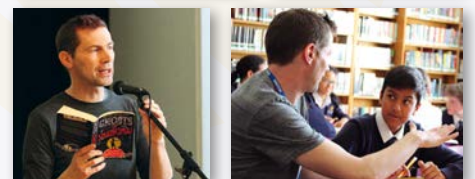
enthused **Stephanie Watt**.

Following the talk, students got creative in the classroom, brainstorming ideas with Julian for their Haiku poems and pegging them across the Park for other students to read over lunchtime.



Al Fresco Book Sale

Sixth Formers bound for Tanzania in the autumn set up a popular book stall on the Headmaster's Lawn at the end of term. The enterprising group sold old and unused stock withdrawn from the library to raise over £200 for the Africa Trip. They created posters, recruited booksellers and Head of Design Technology, **Mark Smith**, organised homemade bakes, generously supplemented by a huge chocolate cake and flagons of squash from Oakview. Summer reading sorted!



Music & Drama

Les Tres Belles Clefs

The four girls who make up 'Les Tres Belles Clefs' sang two a cappella pieces as guests of a top local amateur group, The A440 Choir. The concert raised £682.48 for Christian Aid Week at St Luke's Church, Reading. **Ellie Hawkins** (Year 10), **Nikki Wilson** (Year 11), **Megan White** (Year 11), and **Jessie Sumroy** (Year 10) were presented with a box of chocolates at the end of their performance!



"The experience was truly incredible! It was an amazing opportunity to sing in the church for such a wonderful cause, and the support we received and the community really developed us as a group and individuals."

commented Nikki.



GCSE: 'Chatroom'

In May two Year 10 classes studying GCSE Drama each gave a performance of 'Chatroom' by Enda Walsh. The performances in Main Hall were staged in different ways as each group interpreted the play-script independently. Appreciative audiences of parents, staff and fellow pupils were drawn into the dark world of online bullying. Tackling the difficult issues of teenage mental health and the influence of social media, through some seriously dark humour, the play is an online conversation between three boys and three girls who meet only in a virtual space and depicts their various reactions to the suicidal intentions of one of their number.



Rowan Taylor commented, "The play has some dark themes but these are balanced out by the characters and their interactions. We worked well as a group and had a lot of fun blocking out the scenes. My character, Eva, is particularly fun to act out, due to her aggressive nature."

Head of Drama, **Peter Scoggins**, reflected, "Simply having different actors playing the same role gave more insight into the contexts and the ideas of the play. I am so proud of the mature way that the students have worked through the process; their final performances were excellent."

Creativity is Contagious!

This term the school community has enjoyed concerts including Musicals and Movies, Soloists' and Original Compositions. An incredible array of styles and ideas were presented through each of them, there has been something for everyone.

Some of our technical crew appeared on stage during the Original Compositions concert, including our live broadcast editor, **Luke Eddowes** (Year 10), so that the audience could see and appreciate some of the normal behind the scenes activities they may not be aware of at other events.



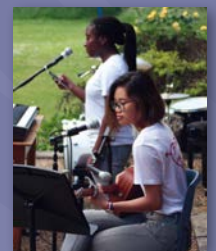
Midsummer Dreaming

On Thursday 17th May, 42 of our Year 9 students went with their English teachers to see The Watermill Theatre's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream in Newbury. The tone for Shakespeare's magical comedy was set as the coach arrived in the picturesque village of Bagnor, but despite the rustic setting of the theatre, this was a fresh and youthful take on the play. The students enjoyed the live music and cabaret style twist, with much laughter and amusement at the mix-ups and mishaps of the characters. We hope this inspires Year 9s in their study of Shakespeare at GCSE next year!



Reckitt Rocks

Reckitt Rocks showcased over a dozen performers from Year 9 to staff in the Reckitt Quad, offering a supportive space for students to take their first steps in performing music, drama or comedy or to push themselves if they are already an accomplished artist. The quality of the music was really high and our first solo drama performance may pave the way to Reckitt victories in House Music and House Drama next year!



Music for a Summer's Day

On Saturday 30th June the school held its annual al fresco music concert, Music for a Summer's Day, as glorious sunshine basked the spectators and performers alike.

From orchestral pieces to solos, from small ensembles to original numbers and well-known favourites, it was a concert that had the audience enthralled. Delicious food was in abundance and the Park was dotted with bright parasols, blankets and gazebos giving the event a real festival feel.

Punctuated with a moving tribute to retiring Head, **Nigel Williams**, it was a thoroughly pleasant afternoon. As evening turned to dusk, the large cinema screen began showing 'The Greatest Showman' for those not yet satiated by music and singing to enjoy until the credits rolled.



Bunker

In a new play by Sixth Former **Peter Smart** a group of young people are desperately seeking to survive an unnamed armageddon without adults at hand. Old animosities hamper their efforts to work together as they struggle to come to terms with a new existence and an uncertain future.

The Middle School Drama group have spent much of the year rehearsing Peter's play under his direction. The result was a committed and polished performance to an audience of friends and family in June. Peter was delighted, commenting,

"It was great to hear the words you have written brought to life by the young cast. They really engaged with the world of the play and brought the characters to life."

RBH Memorial Service

On Saturday 20th May, three students sang at a private memorial service at Royal Berkshire Hospital for those who have passed away in the Intensive Care Unit over the past six months. It was a privilege to have students perform at the ceremony, especially with one student, **Nikki Wilson** (Year 11), delivering a song, 'Wave at a Window', written especially for the event.

Fryer Drama

Since September, Fryers have been improvising scenes and brainstorming ideas in meetings once a week to create a play. After a lot of discussions over the structure of the play and how it might end, the group gave a rehearsed reading to invited friends and family as a way of judging how well it might be received by a wider audience. Some scenes were acted out and others were read. Afterwards there was a very positive discussion gathering audience feedback and the possibility of it becoming a full production next year.

Classical Guitar Star

Congratulations to **Ravi Nathwani** (Upper Sixth) who will be studying Classical Guitar at The Royal Northern College of Music, one of the top music conservatoires in the UK in the autumn. Delighted Director of Music, **Rosemary Scales**, commented, "We are extremely proud of all that Ravi has achieved and we know that he is going to thrive studying at one of the country's top music conservatoires and look forward to hearing him perform back at Leighton Park in the future!"



Sport

LP Girls Can

With almost twenty different activities planned, the 11th to 15th June saw the girls of Leighton Park take part in the inaugural festival of girls' sport, ranging from running to rugby; boxercise to cricket.

The highlight of the week for many was a visit from Svava Sigbersdottir, personal trainer to celebrities such as Amanda Holden and Nicole Sherzinger. Svava put students from Year 7 to Year 10 through their paces before testing her infamous 'Viking Method' on some of the staff, during their lunch break. Svava's training focusses on mental as well as physical health. Determination, having fun and doing your best, in spite of other people's

APP and Primary Pupils

Our Advanced Performer Programme (APP) athletes were brilliant ambassadors for the school at the Evendons Primary School STEM Fair in May, imparting knowledge, testing movement and having fun with primary school pupils through a shared love for sports! The APP continues to provide specialist additional training and support to Leighton Park's most gifted student athletes. Following this, twenty Sports Leaders in Year 10 organised, scored and encouraged the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Sports Day for Redlands Primary School at Palmer Park in Reading. Everyone was impressed with the maturity and skill the students showed.



comments or criticisms, were the messages conveyed during the Q&A sessions on the sunny Headmaster's Lawn.

There were trips off site for daring feats of parkour at Sol Joel Park in Reading and the London Schools' Gaelic Football Tournament in Greenford on Tuesday. It was equally busy on the Park with the school hosting a Cricket Festival and our very first girls' hardball cricket match against The Abbey on Thursday, which we won!

"I had a great time trying out Gaelic football," commented **Emily Dunbar** (Year 10). *"We were able to learn something new as well as apply skills from different sports in the tournament."*

Jez Belas, Director of Sport, reflected on the success of the week: "When I sat with two of our Year 10 students, **Nicola Lee** (Year 9) and **Ellie Pearson** (Year 10), at the beginning of this year and this was just an idea, I never thought it would be this great a week. It has truly inspired me and I hope it has inspired all the girls, even those who wouldn't normally consider themselves to be sporty."

Cricket Week 2018

We were again blessed with excellent weather for cricket week this year, playing the experienced and skilled Forty Club, the MCC XI, the OLCC and taking part in the T20 competition.

Highlights of the week included some excellent stumping by vice-captain, **Marcus Laing** (Lower Sixth) and a remarkable final over from Year 7 prodigy **Kabir Tahiliani!**



Sports Day and Fryer Triathlon

At the end of the summer term, students were excited to watch and take part in the various field, track and athletics activities that were taking place around the Park.

All students took to the Ten Acre Field between Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th July as the two afternoons split Upper and Lower School Sports Day events. Students took part in discus, long jump, high jump, javelin, shotput, sprinting and long distance events each representing their respective Houses in competition for the Richard Coleman shield, presented at the end of the term in Final Collect.

As well as Sports Day, Fryers also took part in the Fryer Triathlon, which saw students take part in a 150m swim, 2km bike ride and 1km run across the Park. Everyone did a fantastic job given the scorching temperatures, with many Fryers grateful to have a cooling dip in the pool before racing outside in the heatwave!

Well done to new House, Huntley, for winning the Fryer Sports Shield and to Grove for pipping School at the finish line winning the Richard Coleman Shield after last year's victory.



Individual Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to **Jamie McLellan** (Year 9) for coming second in the J14 singles and first with **Zach Charles** (Year 9) at the J14 double sculls at Weybridge on Sunday 10th June.



Well done to **Alex Carr** and **Sam Beattie** (Year 11)

who competed in the Junior Inter Regional Regatta at Holme Pierpoint, Nottingham, representing the Thames Upriver region and coming fourth in the A Final.

Chunya Munga (Lower Sixth) travels to South Africa over the summer holidays with the England Rugby U18 Squad continuing to impress both the England Pathway and London Irish Academy.

Current sports scholar and LP girls' cricket captain, **Nicola Lee** (Year 9), lead the U15 squad to a win at the Berkshire county tournament held at Henley CC.



Quaker Cricket Festival



A select school XI of students from Year 9 – Upper Sixth travelled to Bootham School, York, to take part in the annual Quaker School Cricket festival which we hosted last year. Leighton Park beat Ackworth convincingly in their first game where only 87 runs were set by the Pontefract-based school, Captain **George Lee** (Lower Sixth) and all-rounder **Alex Gilbert** (Year 11) making light work of the total. A great final on day two followed against Bootham but Leighton Park were bowled out for just 108 runs with a good middle order knock from **Dylan Wood** (Year 11) saving our blushes. The game looked all but over at 70-2 and coasting but **James Leach** (Year 9) took three wickets in one over to almost turn the game. Bootham won with one over to spare. All in all, it was a fantastic mini tour to end the season!

Condover Netball Tour

Year 7, 8 and 9 netball players travelled to Condover Hall, Shropshire, from Friday 18th – Sunday 20th May for a residential weekend of training, matches and team building activities. The girls had a brilliant time showing off their ability, representing the school and are excited for the autumn season!



Sixth Form

Celebrate Good Times!

Upper Sixth students and teachers enjoyed a wonderful evening on Friday 18th May celebrating the end of their schooldays at the Leavers' Dinner. The glamorous event was held for the second year the University of Reading's Park House, a historic building with picturesque views of the rolling lawns and the lake. The group initially gathered in the more familiar surroundings of the school, outside Oakview, offering everyone the opportunity to take photographs of each other looking fabulous in black tie and beautiful dresses.

Stopping traffic as they went, the smart and the sequined crossed over Pepper Lane and were welcomed by University staff to the Meadow Suite. The three course meal was scrumptious and gaps between courses meant that there was time to take many more photographs commemorating not only the enjoyable evening but also the friendships forged over their time together at Leighton Park.

The following week on Thursday 24th May, Upper Sixth parents, guardians, students and staff gathered in Peckover for Leavers' Day, to bid the best of luck to our Upper Sixth students as they prepare for life after Leighton Park. The drinks reception was followed by a delicious Oakview lunch, a Collect and Meeting for Worship, before enjoying afternoon tea together bringing the afternoon to an end.



Parliament and Politics



On Monday 23rd April, nineteen Sixth Form Politics and History students visited the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court.

"Looking round the Supreme Court and learning about key cases that are controversial was brilliant as I hadn't heard of some of them; it was great getting to discuss them sitting in the chairs in the Supreme Court as if we were justices!" commented **Ed Westley** (Upper Sixth).

"The most interesting part of The Supreme Court was although it was only introduced in 2009, it can be very effective on the welfare of society and is relevance to everyone." enthused **Emma Hipkins** (Lower Sixth).

A Quaker Education

The annual Sixth Form trip to Woodbrooke Centre, the former home of George Cadbury, gave three Lower Sixth students as newly appointed leaders of the student body, **Kierah Nabena**, **Emma Hipkins** and **Sophie Williams**, the chance to learn more about Quakers and how they integrate Quaker principles into their daily lives.

"The trip to Woodbrooke was a great opportunity for us because we got the chance to learn more about what Quakers are like and the type of people they are." commented Kierah.

"We also learnt what it means to be a good leader; for example, how to work together in groups through different workshops and



team building exercises whilst working with different people." added Emma.

"The trip was a fun learning experience. We would like to thank the school for organising it and **Rosanna Jahangard** for taking us - we're looking forward to putting the techniques we learnt to use in the future." concluded Sophie.

LP Community

Travel Scholarship

The Travel Scholarship Fund for 2018 was increased to £2,000 thanks to a donation from an Old Leightonian, **Colin Garrett**. Many years before the idea of a 'gap year' originated, Leighton Park was encouraging its students to travel independently. An approach to life with an international outlook has always been a school trademark and this year the travel scholarship was awarded to Upper Sixth students, **Kirsty Walker** and **Caitlin Shaya** for their overseas projects next year.

50 Years Not Out

Graham Carter (left 1964) received a special Guard of Honour as he made his 50th appearance for the Old Leightonians' Cricket Club in the annual match against school. One of the founders of the OLCC, he has been an incredible dedication to the school, which continues even now with his weekly volunteering in the Archives.



Telling The Time



Hundreds of feet walk past the school War Memorial Garden every day but only a handful of people know the secret of the heliochronometer! **Garegin Melkonyan** (Year 10) has been volunteering in the Archives as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award and with the aid of some crib notes from an OL, helpfully lined up the relevant pinholes and shadows to give a spot on time.

This fascinating device was installed in 1921 in the World War I Memorial Garden opposite Peckover; it is not just a simple sun dial but an elegant device to accurately tell the time within a minute. Using information such as the location's latitude and longitude, the position of true north, celestial mechanics and an astronomical formula called the Equation of Time, it gives us standard mean time.

Vintage Tea

Soaring temperatures matched the high spirits at the Vintage Old Leightonians' Tea for the more senior members of the community. Fryer students and OL Prefect volunteers provided tours; with some open mouthed to hear about the pranks that had gone on back in the days before health and safety considerations!

OLs at STEAM Careers Fair



Eight Old Leightonians joined us for the STEAM Careers Fair held on 2nd July to share their knowledge and advice with students, inspiring them for the future in STEAM. We hope to welcome even more OLs back next year for the event on Monday 1st July 2019!

Opening The Archives

Explore your Archives Week, a talk in conjunction with the PSC, Fryer Festival and not forgetting Leighton Park Archives on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, are all ways to find out more about school's fascinating history and to enjoy some of the treasures and stories being revealed by the team. Visit the archives and learn more about the school's history on 20th November at 7.30pm in Peckover Hall.



8s Reunion



Reunions are always the highlight of the Alumni Office calendar and record numbers arrived for the 8's Reunion, for those leaving in years ending 8. So many memories shared and old haunts explored; old photos are pored over and heads scratched trying to name every last person!

PSC

Thank you Lindsey!

A huge thanks to **Lindsey Wheeler**, who has put so much time and effort into the rejuvenation of the Nearly New Shop over the last few years. Her contribution to this wonderful initiative was marked by the presentation of handmade bunting, created from old Leighton Park sportskit, by fellow parent and ex-PSC member, **Eme Dean-Lewis**. Lindsey's good work will be continued by Fryer parents, **Stacey Corfield** and **Sabine Gruber**.



Nearly New Uniform Shop

The Nearly New Uniform Shop did another term of sterling business keeping our students in spare school kit all in the name of charity. Now is the perfect time to gather together any outgrown items to help replenish the Nearly New Uniform Shop stores. All donations can be left at Fryer House.

Book Club

The PSC Book Club is a brilliant way to meet other LP community members and the Autumn Term has some top reads to tempt new book club members. The first meeting of the Autumn Term is on Monday 17th September with 'Nutshell' by Ian McEwan. We would love to see you there. For more details, please see <http://bit.ly/BookGroupLP18>



Music for a Summer's Day

The highlight of the Summer calendar for the whole Leighton Park community doubled as a farewell jamboree for Nigel this year. Glorious weather and superb music created a fabulous festival atmosphere. We had a full troupe of PSC volunteers manning the bar tent with bounteous jugs of fruit punch and Pimms. It was the perfect opportunity for the PSC to present a beautiful oak leaf cheese board as a gesture of thanks and 'Bon Fromage' to Nigel as he moves onto pastures new with our best wishes.



Sport's Day Ice Cream Van

Ask any Leighton Park student about Sports Day and most will wax lyrical about the presence of the all-important PSC Ice Cream Van. With the weather we have had this year, the van could not have been more appreciated and in the process helped to raise additional funds for the PSC coffers into the bargain.



An Evening with Jenny Quintana

The PSC was delighted to host Jenny Quintana this term for a discussion about her new novel, 'The Missing Girl'. Jenny's interest in the darker side of life draws her to write about extraordinary things happening to ordinary people and she unfolds a story that is so well crafted, the discovery at the end of the tale took many of the audience by surprise. Over 30 community members enjoyed cocktails and canapes before hearing about the writing and editing process and Jenny's insight into her richly formed characters.



Getting Involved

If you would like to get involved with the PSC and meet some other community members, keep an eye out for requests for help in the weekly e-bulletin, email us on psc@leightonpark.com or come along to our AGM on 20th November. We will be looking for volunteers to help out at the Annual Open Morning on 29th September and at the Fireworks on 9th November and would love to hear from you!

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 17th September PSC Book Group: Nutshell by Ian McEwan
- Tuesday 18th September PSC Committee Meeting
- Saturday 29th September PSC Support for Annual Open Morning
- Friday 9th November Fireworks on the Park
- Monday 12th November PSC Book Group: The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
- Tuesday 20th November PSC Committee Meeting and AGM followed by Evening Talk with School Archivist: 'Tracing Leighton Park's 'Je Ne Sais Quoi'
- Sunday 9th December Decorating Peckover Hall for Christmas Evening Meeting



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Leighton Park School