



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

THE PARK // SUMMER 2019



ACHIEVEMENT WITH VALUES, CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY

ACHIEVEMENT

Top Grade GCSEs Triumph!

The highest proportion of top level GCSE grades for fourteen years has been achieved by our Year 11 students this summer. Celebrating 55% of results at grades 7-9 equivalent, an impressive year-on-year increase of 4% on the highest scoring results, the 84-strong cohort racked up 35% at grades 8-9 equivalent with 15% at grade 9.

Matthew Judd, Head, commented, "These outstanding results represent magnificent achievement for the Year 11s. This year's GCSE results are our best for a long time with over half the grades at the top levels; the students and staff have worked incredibly hard to achieve these and I wholeheartedly congratulate them on this considerable success."

Rowan Taylor was all smiles over her excellent grades: "I was at a different secondary school before and I honestly think I would have been one or two grades lower across all my subjects if I'd stayed there. The teachers here have higher expectations."



Outstanding A Level Achievements!

"With 31% A*-A and 56% A*-B grades this year, Leighton Park is recognised as one of the top two schools in Berkshire and is in the top 3% in England by the Government's league tables for Sixth Form progress," noted **Karen Gracie-Langrick**, Academic Deputy-Head, "The quality of our teaching is exceptional, and a significant proportion go onto Russell Group universities each year."

One of the School's areas of excellence is its Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) provision and the focus has clearly benefitted the students with impressive results in STEAM subjects including Maths (64% A*-B), Design and Technology (69% A*-B) and Art (67% A*-B).

Aspiring doctor, **Faye Mui** is headed for a medical degree at Queen's University, Belfast, with her three A grades. "I'm so excited, I'm shaking!" laughed Faye, "I know it will be a tough five years of my life but I'm so happy that I've made it happen! I worked every day, so hard, and I got incredible support from my teachers; they have been my lifesavers!"



IB Students Celebrate!

The 2019 cohort of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students were delighted to average a score of 35, with three of the nine candidates also gaining a bilingual diploma. In addition to this, one student from war-torn Libya was supported on the IB programme having had very little formal education.

Angi Hernandez Notaroberto, whose 40 points have secured her place at Leeds to read Accounting and Finance in the autumn was delighted with her results. "I really didn't expect this, not to be humble, I just really didn't expect it."

Head of Sixth Form and IBDP Co-ordinator, **Helen Taylor**, commented, "Our focus is on helping each student achieve the very best they can. The breadth of the education they have received on the IBDP equips them with the skills and attributes to succeed in this rapidly-changing world."



BOOM! Art and Design

From 19th to 24th June the BOOM! Summer Art and Design show exhibited the work of our creatively talented GCSE and A Level students. From textiles to paintings to architectural models, there was a wide range of thought provoking and original artwork on display.

One artist, **Will Parsons** (Lower Sixth), was subsequently recognised for his incredible work and selected from over 6,000 entries for the Royal Academy online exhibition. His painting 'A Day at Home' is available to view at youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk



D of E Update

It has been a busy term for our D of E groups with six intrepid International Baccalaureate explorers venturing to the Surrey hills. The three-day hike challenged students with seven hours of activity each day. Fortunately, there was enough food to redistribute the rations after a peckish badger guzzled an entire packet of their bagels.

Year 9 students then embarked on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition on Saturday 18th May,



beginning a demanding adventure across the Chiltern Ridgeway.

Staff were impressed by the resilience the group showed, especially one student who used walking poles and considerable determination to power through the discomfort from a recent leg operation and another who encountered a rock en route and was treated to his group's first aid skills.

D of E Co-ordinator, **Ann Munday** commented on their upcoming qualifying expeditions, "**We are sure they will do very well, whatever is thrown at them!**"



ISA Music Composition

Musician **Eloise Tait** (Year 9) was awarded 2nd place in the Key Stage 3 Composition category of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Music Composition Competition 2019, for her song 'Holding onto You'. Designed to celebrate the art of music composition and to encourage musical pupils to think of themselves as composers from a young age, the competition is in its first year and received over one hundred entries.

Eloise was entered into the competition following her song's success as Grove's entry in the School's recent House Music competition. **Emily Dunbar, Nikki Wilson, Joseph Gipple, Tommy Lindsell and Ellie Hawkins** who also entered were delighted to have the opportunity to share their compositions with a wider audience and an accomplished panel of judges.



Crest Award



Congratulations to **Garegin Melkonyan** (Year 11) and **Lexi Price-Lonsdale** (Upper Sixth), who became the first Leighton Park students to be awarded prestigious CREST Silver awards from the British Science Association. A nationally recognised scheme for student-led project work in the STEM subjects, CREST inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers.

Garegin researched 'The Efficiency of Space Rockets', whilst Lexi followed her interests in Marine Biology with her project on 'Lessons from Coleoid Cephalopods'.

STEAM teacher **Mark Budge** said "Lexi and Garegin have been wonderful STEAM Ambassadors as they have shown what you can achieve with incredible initiative and drive. It is great to have validation of their success from the British Science Association."



VALUES

Amicus Fundraising

Throughout the year Amicus, our Sixth Form charity group, have fundraised to support a number of local causes including; Red Balloon Reading, Diana Award, Reading Family Aid, Quaker Homeless Action, Readifood Food Bank, Launchpad Reading and Berkshire Guide and Rescue Dogs. In total they have raised a phenomenal £2,388.61.

Meeting every Wednesday afternoon, Amicus organise the School's Mufti Days and discuss how to support local charities. This year they have launched a very successful

Toy Appeal in support of the Reading Family Aid charity and have organised several Collects both in the Main Hall and in different Houses.

One of the charities grateful to have received a donation is BSARD, a voluntary organisation on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to assist search and rescue teams, the Police and other Emergency Services. Their primary role is to assist in locating lost or missing vulnerable people within Berkshire and its surrounding areas. On Friday 28th June, at the end of Collect **Matthew Judd**, Head, presented Julianne Hull from BSARD a cheque for £150 raised over the course of the term by Amicus.



Global Mindedness Week

To launch Global Mindedness Week on Monday 14th June, Year 9 welcomed **Erica Purvis**, Sustainable Design Engineer from Technical Nature, who was able to offer valuable insights on the impact of technology on our society.

Exploring the worldwide impact of artificial intelligence and robots, energy, the internet and social media, transportation and bio-technology, the groups were organised into ten teams, each one representing either the pros or the cons of one of the five categories.

Students created magazines and mood boards to support their stance as well as a video reflecting on the projects. The individual teams then showcased their work to one another and to the staff who had overseen their activities. Displaying resolve and intellectual rigour in tackling the global challenges we face today, Year 9 concluded their research with a debate on whether technology really does make the world a better place.

Organiser and Head of English, **Tom Rawlings**, commented, "I have been astonished by the students' maturity and the level of dialogue that has been happening. They met deadlines and produced work of great quality. The debate was an insanely high standard with some truly exceptional speakers."

The students were equally enthusiastic with **Ewan Doyle** explaining, "We've been working on a project around the positive benefits of social media. These include keeping in touch with family and starting mass movements, like those around climate change."

"I've enjoyed the Global Mindedness project because we've worked in



groups and learned about subjects we wouldn't usually get to look at." added **Tiger Goslar**.

"This project has really pushed us, as we've had to work towards targets. I feel like I've really learned about the value of group work as it just isn't possible to do it all by yourself." concluded **Megan Sommerville-Bailey** and **George Stock**.

Teen Tech Trip

On Thursday 20th June, ten Year 8 students attended the annual TeenTech event held at Hampshire Court Hotel. From robotics to broadcast technology, precision engineering to world class scientific research, the event showcased a range of careers and opportunities in STEM by bringing together industry, charities and young people.

“The challenges presented to students required leadership, strategy and lots of active participation. It was wonderful to see them devise individual roles, create partnerships and most of all, reflect on their performance and the decisions they made throughout the challenge.” Commented **Peter Marshman**, Head of Computer Science and trip organiser.

The Fryers were delighted to be awarded with a certificate from the judges, after their inspiring presentation on futuristic glasses that would make driving using GPS safer.

Students then browsed the many different stalls with fascinating STEM experiments, led by experts in their field, including JVC, BCS and De La Rue. At each of these stands they were able to find out about the emerging technologies in the workplace.



Change Champions

The beginning of July marked the culmination of the Fryer Change Champions programme as students in Years 7 and 8 presented their innovative ideas to make the Park a more sustainable environment in which to live and work. Supported by The Commercial Group the award night recognised the efforts of our pupils to make the world a better place.



Quaker Retreat



From Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th June, four Lower Sixth students joined other Quaker schools to develop their understanding of Quakerism and its practice. The retreat, which took place in Birmingham, is part of Woodbrooke's learning programme to nourish spiritual development, strengthen the Quaker community and encourage work towards a peaceful and just world.

Learning about Quaker history and testimony, students considered how the moral and ethical values of the faith could be applied to the decisions they make at school and in their own day to day lives.

The retreat not only developed students understanding of Quakerism, but challenged some of their conventional ideas. **Klara Pim** said what she valued most from the retreat was **“Meeting people from other Quaker schools and**

learning how they follow the same values but differently to Leighton Park.”

Students also had the opportunity to enjoy a walking tour of Quaker Bournville and explore the setting which George Cadbury helped create.

Jasmine Walker said **“I think the most valuable thing I took from the trip is an appreciation of silence. Whether in meeting for worship or sat outside in the centre of Birmingham, silence as a Quaker value was meaningful to me before, but now I can see the value of silence in other places in our lives.”**

Jasmine continued **“I'd recommend this trip to everyone. The timing is perfect as it acts as a perfect retreat in which you can truly reflect and learn a lot about Quakerism, as well as about yourself as a student at a Quaker school.”**

CHARACTER

LP Girls Can Week



The second annual #LP Girls Can Week, masterminded by PE teacher, **Zoe Macpherson**, was a storming success with female staff and students across all years getting stuck into sports. An inspiring range of activities were on offer, from parkour to yoga; there really was something for everyone.

The girls were undeterred by torrential downpours at the beginning of the week as they splashed through 1, 3 or 5 km of puddles and ran for Breast Cancer Research after school.

There was some great raw talent on display at the Girls' Cricket Festival, whilst offsite, girls from Years 7 and 8 headed for a hi-energy parkour session at Sol Joel Park.

Old Leightonian, personal trainer and group exercise coach, **Risqat Fabumni** known as Fabby, delivered a fitness and wellness day to the girls in the community. Students and staff sprinted, hopped, and sidestepped their way through an intensive series of exercises.

The Wasps Rugby training session and lunch time Fryer football concluded the week, alongside the set up for Fox Fitness Festival.

Reflecting on the week Zoe said, "**The #LPGirlsCan week was a great success with so many girls trying new sports and getting involved with the activities throughout the week. The aim of the week is to support our girls to explore more sporting opportunities and make them feel confident in their sporting ability. Keeping our students active is important for their health and being engaged in team sports boosts their friendships.**"

Harriet Randall (Year 8) said "**It was amazing; there were loads of activities on that normally we don't have time to do such as rugby, football and parkour. Fabby was great - she was so enthusiastic about everything; she called me Miss Stripey Socks which made me try harder as I knew she was watching me.**"

Jez Belas (Director of Sport) added "**What a week! Our female staff and students have once again proved they simply love to be challenged and get involved in new and exciting physical activity.**"



Biology in Pembrokeshire

On Monday 24th June Lower Sixth Biologists set off for Pembrokeshire to sample the plant and animal life on rocky shore, sand dune, meadow and woodland ecosystems. Their investigations included the effect of abiotic factors on the size and distribution of limpets, whose teeth are made of the hardest substance known to science. The fauna, flora and fungal fun was capped off by toasting marshmallows by the camp fire while **David Hammond**, Head of Science, played his guitar. The highlight of the trip was a rare sighting of an adder, Britain's only venomous snake.



Slapton Leys Geography Trip

From 13th to 14th June, Geography students investigated the marine and subaerial coastal processes at Prawle Point as part of their A Level trip to Slapton Leys.

During their fieldwork the geographers looked into geology, landforms of erosion and deposition, sediment cells and landforms resulting from sea level change, before analysing and presenting their data. They were then able to use their findings to discuss sustainable management of the environment.



Summertime Music

Our first concert of the Summer term celebrated music from the stage and the silver screen with popular pieces from movies and musicals performed by our instrumentalists, vocalists and ensembles large and small in Main Hall.

Music and media combined in perfect synergy at our Soloists' Concert as we filmed the first of our new Leighton Park Foyer Concerts in the Upper Foyer of the Michael Malnick Centre; a stunning backdrop, recently winning Highly Commended for the ANC's 'Education Acoustics' category.

Congratulations to **Matthew Mackay** and **Jiaqi Lv**, our joint winners of the Outstanding Contribution to Music prize for Upper Sixth leavers.

International product specialist, John Barron, from global leading music software company, Steinberg, joined staff and some of our Sixth Form musicians to demonstrate the new generation score writing software, Dorico. Since their training, students have been able to use it to compose their own pieces.

Glorious sunshine complemented the fantastic performances of our talented musicians at both the Fryer festival and Music for a Summer's Evening. The extravaganza of instrumental and vocal performances included soloists and duets, large and small ensembles and plenty of talent, towards the end of term.



Music Tour to Greece

The Senior Choir, Orchestra and Leighton Park Brass created musical magic during this year's Greek Music Tour. Putting on three spectacular, open air evening concerts, they performed at Syntagma Square, Nafplion, Bouboulina Museum Courtyard, Spetses and the outdoor courtyard of Kapsia Caves.

The group finished a packed first day of rehearsals and sightseeing with a lowkey performance in the hotel Piano Bar. The next morning, they were geared up for the first concert, however, not before taking in the incredible views from Nafplio Castle; an amazing feat of architecture, offering the chance to climb inside a small prison cell.

The night consisted of a fantastic performance, great crowd and beautiful gift given on behalf of the Mayor of Nafplion, a treble clef.

En route to the Island of Spetses the tour completed some incredible logistical challenges, moving everything by boat, including timpani, piano and sound equipment. The concert inside the white walled gardens of the Bouboulina Museum ended with the audience dancing the conga during Children of Sanchez.

Thankful to make their way to the cooler, mountainous region of Vytina, the students performed their final concert in the courtyard of Kapsia Caves, which was filmed by the local Greek television.

The George Best Costacos Cancer Research Foundation organised two of the three concerts and helped to raise awareness for much needed research. Students were grateful to receive their support and gifts as well as a golden plaque, from the President of The Chamber of Arcadia, all to be proudly displayed in the School.

Rosemary Scales commented, "**The students were exemplary in so many ways and have been an absolute joy and privilege to take away. They have all helped with everything, been polite and gracious and of course, performed three amazing concerts.**"



Let's Dance

On Tuesday 11th June Year 7 to 9 boys fused high tempo dance moves with incredible enthusiasm and energy in a FuzzyLogic Dance Masterclass. The session challenged strength, control and stamina with **Neven Elliesen** (Year 9) commenting, **"It was a new and fun experience for me. I didn't realise dance could be so physical."**

Later in the term on Tuesday 18th June, girls and boys from Years 7 to 9 had the opportunity to explore repertoire from 'Ghost Dances' by Christopher Bruce, with Mikaela Polley from Rambert Dance Company. Together they learnt how the piece had responded to the disappearance of Victor Jara in Chile, during General Pinochet's dictatorship.

Emma Kendall (Year 9) said **"It was really helpful in preparation for my studying GCSE dance next year. I liked Mikaela's sensitive approach and learnt about how important timing is in dance."** **Martha Morgan** (Year 8) commented **"I valued having the opportunity to express myself."**

Putting the techniques learnt in their respective dance classes to use on Thursday 23rd June, students impressed with their performance of 'Let's Dance'. Proving to be a huge success, 'Let's Dance', showcased some skilful dance performances and was a testament to the amount of time students commit to rehearsals.



AI: More than Human

Tuesday 2nd July saw our creative thinkers and makers head to London's Barbican Centre to catch the 'A.I.: More than Human' exhibition where Lower Sixth students were presented with exhibits that propelled them into a future beyond humans, where robots could interact and think for themselves and arcade games measured how happy or sad they were to track emotional interaction.

Students additionally immersed themselves in 'The Art of the Ancients' at the British Museum, as well as exploring the British Library's 'Writing: Making Your Mark' exhibition.

Megan Sommerville-Bailey reflected **"The day was fascinating and thought provoking, particularly the British Library, appreciating how language and words have shaped society as far back as 3000BC to the present day, in stark contrast to the exhibits at the Barbican that looked at how we might progress in the future."**



Dramatic Sensations



Presenting scenes written by those involved in Fryer Drama this term, our Drama Showcase mixed Lower and Middle School drama in an evening of eclectic performances. The highlight for many was the football-focussed performance of 'Extra-Time', co-written by Drama student, **Sam Rowe** (Year 9); an expressive and emotional piece which held the audience rapt as it explored the themes of growing up, parental influence and coping under pressure.

Head of Drama, **Peter Scoggins**, commented, **"Sam has worked incredibly hard over the last term or so to craft, rehearse and polish this piece of theatre. For a Year 9 pupil to have done this largely by himself with such confidence, enthusiasm and ability is no mean feat!"**

On Wednesday 12th June, Year 10 GCSE Drama students presented a wonderfully thought-provoking 'workshop' production of Federico Garcia Lorca's passionate, magical realism play 'Blood Wedding'. Students experimented with choral speaking to make a feature of other-worldly elements and explored the techniques of Bertolt Brecht, with roles shared between actors in a gender-blind cast. The conviction of performances was captivating.



Fryers in France

The annual Year 7 French trip to Boulogne-Sur-Mer in Cote d'Opale saw an excited group of Fryers taking the ferry across the Channel, from Monday 24th to Thursday 27th June.

Each morning began with an immersive and engaging two-hour class at the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, where students were exposed to the French language and given the opportunity to develop their linguistic skills.

Highlights of the week included bread, croissant and chocolate making, a visit to the Old Town in Boulogne-Sur-Mer with an impromptu historical tour, witnessing the huge array of water-based animals at Nausicaa Aquarium and adrenaline rushes at Aqualud Water Parc.



Welsh Adventures

On Monday 24th June, Year 8 students set off for a week-long adventure in Havorfordwest on the North Pembrokeshire coast with TYF Adventures. Students were able to break out of their comfort zones, and hone teamwork and leadership skills as they immersed themselves in a range of outdoor activities, including surfing, kayaking, climbing and coasteering.

They also had the opportunity to explore St David's - the smallest city in the world, as well as expend their energy running along the Pembrokeshire coastline, to the famous blue lagoon in Abereddy and enjoy the adrenaline rush of Oakwood, Wales' biggest theme park.



Málaga and Montpellier

Year 10 GCSE Spanish and French students enjoyed the benefits of learning a language during their trips to Málaga and Montpellier in June.

In Málaga students were immersed in language lessons each morning for four hours, with native speakers, conversing exclusively in Spanish. All students were delighted to receive their certificates to confirm their successful course completion.

In the afternoons, they were able to experience Spanish life, with trips to El Caminito del Rey, the King's Little Pathway and to the Alhambra, the palace and fortress complex in Granada.



Meanwhile French students combined morning language lessons at LSF in Montpellier, with the opportunity to stay overnight with host families, improving their vocabulary and increasing their confidence in French speaking.

Their busy schedule also included trips to the historical towns of Nimes and Orange, a French cookery course, playing the game of petanque and a trip to the beach.

Head of Boarding, **Myles Nash**, commented "To have the opportunity of spending an extended period of time learning a foreign language is so important to the development and improvement of skills as students move towards their GCSE examinations next year."

China in London

On Monday 1st July Mandarin students from Years 7 and 8 set off to experience Chinese history and culture. Arriving at the British Museum, they explored a number of galleries before visiting the Asian Ceramics, Japanese Collections and Chinese Ceramics exhibitions.

Max Verry (Year 8) said, "I was interested in the samurai armour because it relates back to Chinese history and samurai were powerful warriors."

In Chinatown students had the opportunity to practise their Mandarin, experience the quarter's cultural atmosphere and explore some of the more unusual supermarkets and shops.



COMMUNITY

Celebrations Galore!

Year 11 enjoyed celebrating the end of their GCSEs on Wednesday 19th June with a Prom Night that saw an array of gorgeous, glamorous, sequinned and suave students gracing Oakview for the evening.

The dramatic transformation saw studious GCSE candidates turn to carefree teenagers in a kaleidoscope of dresses, suits and even a kilt. Having survived the parent paparazzi eager to capture every moment, they were treated to a formal meal followed by awards and speeches.

A scrumptious sweetie bar was laid on and the photo booth complete with fun props proved very popular. Congratulations to the Prom King and Queen, **Steven Bai** and **Lorna Green** and thanks to the Prom Committee, led by **Brian Kwon** and the staff team, **Alex Fox**, **Zoe Macpherson** and **Mark Simmons**, for making the night so memorable.



Fryer Festival & FPQ

On Saturday 22nd June our annual Fryer Festival took place, celebrating the enthusiasm of our Year 7s and 8s in so many aspects of their academic work and co-curricular passions; dance, drama, STEAM, languages, music, art and even baking.

Not only were the performances of drama, dance and music enough to brighten anyone's day, it was gloriously sunny as visitors meandered through the variety of activities and events taking place. With entertainment from media production, rowing an ergo, voting for the best Science cake, writing a haiku or pedalling your way to a fruit smoothie, there was something for everyone.

With Fryer Voices sounding as awesome as ever and an eclectic range of musical offerings from vocalists and instrumentalists, the music tent provided a rolling programme of aural entertainment.

The Fryer Project Qualification presentations were reprised for the occasion, giving visitors the chance to see some of the speeches they might have missed at the FPQ event earlier in the term.

The programme which aims to foster a spirit of enquiry, develop critical thinking and practical skills in students,

treated the audience to intelligent insights and interesting information on topics as diverse as kindness, autism and D-Day.

Emily Waters (Year 8) noted **"I was very nervous before performing but once I started I was fine and felt good, I felt happy and proud of myself afterwards. I have really enjoyed learning about a new topic."**

Tim Mammadbayli (Year 8) enthused **"I liked the research and I enjoyed all of the Fryer Project. I was terrified of the presentation beforehand but in the end it went really well. The set-up was amazing and it was great to hear everyone's talks."**

The JB Fryer Award was presented to **Laurel Taylor** and to **Akizay Gurung** by Head, **Matthew Judd**, for so successfully embracing and embodying the values of the House and the ethos of the School. They join a tradition of worthy former recipients in carrying kindness, perseverance and enthusiasm into Year 9.



STEAM Careers Fairs



There was an excited buzz in Peckover Hall on Monday 1st July as students in Year 10 and above joined visitors from surrounding schools for the third annual Big Bang Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) Careers Fair.

Alongside two workshop sessions and a talk from sustainability design engineer and creative business mentor, Erica Purvis from Technical Nature, the students were keen to explore the stalls at the fair where there were representatives available to explain commercial opportunities in a diverse range of industries, academic courses and alternative paths such as apprenticeships and gap years.

In the workshops, students were exposed to a selection of careers through presentations and interactive exercises. Peter Brett Associates provided budding engineers with an insight into the science of infrastructure, planning and building with an interactive bridge building game. Next door to PBA, Pfizer held a simulation of double-blind testing in clinical trials using jelly beans.

In his talk about the challenges and changing trends in medicine, **Paul Lear**, a transplant surgeon from Dorset County Hospital encouraged students not to rush decisions about their future, saying “**I am a great believer that you should take your time with your career and keep it as broad as you can, for as long as possible.**”



Speakers from Ernest and Young noted that “**All companies are moving into technology. No matter what graduate programme or sector you go into, it is important to be mindful of technology and the impact it has and will continue to have on your workplace.**”

Camilla Harding (Year 10) said “**My favourite part of today was being able to talk to an expert in their field from Study in Scotland, who had lots of knowledge on the subject I want to study.**”

Dr Jo Toovey from Highdown School reflected, “**We brought some of our top students along today and it has been really useful to give them the enthusiasm to aspire high at A Level. Students have found out a bit more about potential careers and routes into careers, helping them decide what they really want to do. Some students found out about combining creativity with STEM disciplines and the huge range of options that exist.**”

On Friday 28th June Year 9 also explored careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths with STEM Sussex. They were keen to find out about exciting career paths, new roles, different industries and the number of opportunities available to them.



Sports Day

Determination and drive powered our students around our 10-acre field on Wednesday 3rd July as a wide variety of track and field events were hotly contested by the Houses. Students took part in discus, long jump, high jump, javelin, shotput, sprinting and long distance events. Fryer winners were Huntley House and the Richard Coleman Shield was presented in Final Collect to Reckitt.



COMMUNITY

PSC Book Group

The PSC Book Group celebrated the end of a good year's reading with the annual voting for their favourite Book Group book. The 2018/19 winners were 'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine' by Gail Honeyman and 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towles. All parents, guardians and staff are welcome to join the group. For the 2019/20 book selection and meeting dates, please visit the PSC page on the website and click on the Book Group tab.

9s Reunion

This year we welcomed back leavers from 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969 and 1959, for the annual Old Leightonian reunion on Sunday 12th May. It was a great turnout with catch ups between former students and different generations, starting in the newly opened Michael Malnick Centre and moving on to Peckover Hall.



Musical Refreshments

Music for a Summer's Evening would not be complete without the delicious refreshments provided by our marvellous PSC; a huge thank you to everyone for the scrumptious Pimms and fantastic BBQ.



Patron of Reading

Our Patron of Reading, Julian Sedgewick, entertained Year 8 on Thursday 13th June with a fascinating workshop focussing on ghostly tales and haunted literary settings. Julian is an expert in writing chilling tales, with his new book, 'Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black', having been released in May.



2019 Leavers

Upper Sixth students and teachers enjoyed a wonderful evening on Friday 17th May, celebrating the end of their schooldays at the annual Leaver's Dinner. The glamorous event was held for the third year at the University of Reading's Park House, an historic building with picturesque views of the rolling lawns and the lake. Meeting outside Oakview on the Park, everyone had the opportunity to capture photos of each other in black tie and ballgown dresses.

Stopping traffic as they went, the smart and the sequinned crossed over Pepper Lane and were welcomed by University staff to the Meadow Suite. Over a scrumptious three course meal, Upper Sixth reflected on the friendships forged over their time together at Leighton Park.



The following week on Thursday 23rd May, Upper Sixth parents, guardians, students and staff gathered in Peckover for Leaver's 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.

