



LeysLife

Issue 9 - Summer Term 2022



A Message from the Headmaster

As we reach the end of the academic year, it is good to look back on all we have achieved over the past term.

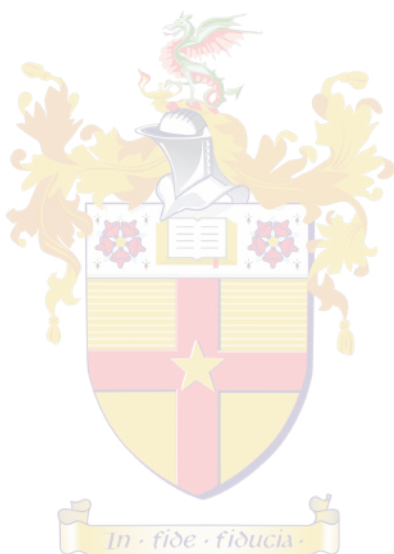
There have been some notable accomplishments from Leysians in the field of debating, and in particular it has been wonderful to watch our brilliant Sixth Form team progress through the Rotary Club public speaking competition with unbeaten success against strong competition. Thanks go to the English department for steering them through each round and for their guidance throughout. Our DT department too have been doing some incredibly impressive work with our Year 10 and 11 pupils and their electric car, which was raced at the Lotus test track in June. I look forward to seeing how they progress with the project and to finding out whether they have qualified for the finals, which we will hear about next term.

The Summer Term has also seen Leysians take to the stage with an impressive End of Year concert held in the beautiful surroundings of Saffron Hall, as well as productions of Patrick Marber's *The Musicians* and Tim Minchin's *Matilda Jr.* held in our own Great Hall.

A particular highlight for our newly-appointed Senior Prefect, Charles D, was the opportunity to meet David Hockney and escort him around his exhibition at the wonderful Fitzwilliam Museum, just a few minutes' walk from The Leys. To spend time with an artist of his experience was an amazing opportunity and a real privilege for Charles.

It has also been heartening to see the school offering support to OLs beyond their time at The Leys, an example being our sponsorship of Fin Creighton to help with his golfing career, providing him with a tour bag to take to his upcoming competitions.

As we look forward to next term, we are thrilled to be welcoming legendary pianist, Sir Stephen Hough, to The Leys in September. To have a performer of this calibre come to the School is a rare and exciting opportunity, and a concert not to be missed. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to book soon to avoid disappointment.



SCHOOL LIFE



Debating Success

On Saturday 23 April, a team of Sixth Form pupils from The Leys were named regional winners of this year's 'Youth Speaks', the Rotary Club Youth Public Speaking competition.

The winning team comprised of Ellie M, Sienna H and Georgia D. The girls were required to deliver a 15-minute presentation on why the institution of marriage is outdated, competing against strong teams from St Albans' Girls School and Stamford High School.

The girls' victory follows their success in the district finals, which was held earlier in the year, against teams from St Joseph's College, Ipswich and The Perse.

The competition has been run by the Rotary Club since 1988 and provides the opportunity for teams to build their confidence and ambition.

Miss Garrett, Head of English at The Leys, commented: "We are so proud of the team, who retained the same winning formula of eloquence, humour and teamwork as they have done throughout the competition.

"They saved their best performance for the final and the way they worked with one another in answering questions was a remarkable feat of collaboration. The other teams were by far the strongest we had faced, and I think we were all aware that getting this far in the competition was a remarkable achievement in itself. Nevertheless, when The Leys were announced victorious, our team and the parents supporting them were absolutely thrilled.

"It is a shame that the national finals have been cancelled, as the next round would have been held at the NEC in Birmingham which would have been a wonderful experience for them, but the team will now remain unbeaten and should be incredibly proud of their achievements."

Well done also to Florence and Daria who finished as runners up in the East Anglia Year 12 Spanish Debating Competition on 28 April. Throughout the competition they made strong arguments in all their debates and displayed excellent teamwork. For the final they had to prepare an unseen motion without the use of technology and they rose to the occasion magnificently.

Flash Fiction

Every year the department of Languages at Oxford University runs a 'Flash Fiction' competition for secondary school pupils. This year we had two entrants: one in the category for Years 7-11 and the other for Years 12-13.



The competition requires pupils to write a complete story in Spanish using no more than 100 words, which is a huge challenge. They also have to show imagination, narrative flair and obviously some elements of uniqueness for their story to be highlighted amongst all the participants.

Lower Sixth pupil Daria P's story was highly commended by the judges in this year's competition and we are very proud of her achievement in such a competitive and challenging event.

Maths Escape Room

In the penultimate week of term, Dr Ayton hosted an Escape Room style mathematics activity for pupils in the Lower Sixth. In small groups, over the course of two hours, they had to solve a variety of puzzles in different locations around the school in order to recover a precious stolen item and identify the thief. The puzzles were adapted from the University of Oxford's Mathematics Escape Room to specially fit The Leys and our pupils. Each puzzle related to a different area of mathematics, including inverse problems, cellular automata, and projective geometry, but most importantly they were engaging and fun to solve!



A successfully solved marble run! The pupils were told where a marble had to finish if placed in each different entry point, so they had to construct a run which suited those conditions; a perfect example of a mathematics inverse problem.

SCHOOL LIFE

Lotus Track Day

On Sunday 19 June, six pupils from Years 10 and 11 competed in the Green Power Trust regional heats race day at the Lotus Hethel test track in Norfolk in an electric car they designed and built themselves. They finished tenth in their class with 29.7 miles completed on one set of batteries in 90 minutes.

The event was the culmination of three terms of hard work, building the bodyshell from fibreglass and carbon fibre, working on increasing motor efficiency with an electronic speed controller and making incremental improvements to decrease rolling resistance and reducing weight.

Head of Design and Technology, Mr Coakes, commented: "The pupils have been great and their enthusiasm has been persistent. Particularly Martin P-S who has been instrumental in developing the car's data logging systems and telematics."

"Our result at the recent event places the team 31st nationally and we hope this will be enough to go on to the finals at Goodwood in October, but we won't find out until September when the last heats have taken place."



EPQ Presentations 2022

We were delighted to welcome staff, parents and pupils to the Recital Hall on Wednesday 22 June to see the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) presentations given by this year's cohort. As part of the assessment process, pupils were required to give a short presentation to their supervisors, outlining the work they have undertaken, as well as having the opportunity to discuss their projects with their teachers and peers.

Examples of this year's work include a project on the rise of online shopping and its effect on the high street, an investigation into sustainable architecture, and an exploration of Greek Myths. All projects were presented on display boards along with other visual aids such as slides and video content.

The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification, equivalent to half an A Level, designed to extend and develop pupils' abilities beyond the syllabus and prepare them for university or their future career. The EPQ allows pupils to lead their own projects, planning and carrying out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other subjects.

EPQ Centre Coordinator, Mr Springall, commented: "We are so proud of the hard work and dedication this year's pupils have put into their projects and grateful for the guidance that their supervisors have given them. The work they have produced is extremely impressive and we were delighted to see so many there at the presentation to support them."



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

End of Year Concert

A successful End of Year Concert was held at Saffron Hall on the evening of Friday 29 April involving pupils from all year groups. Highlights included a sublime rendition of Haydn's Cello Concerto No.1 featuring Alex H as the soloist, and the Wind Band's finale 'A night at the movies' by Alan Silvestri. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part and thank you to our wonderful Music Department who made it all possible.



Leys Chapel Choir at Selwyn College

On Tuesday 10 May, The Leys Chapel Choir joined forces with the Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge, for Choral Evensong. Directors of Music Max Kenworthy of The Leys and Sarah MacDonald of Selwyn shared the conducting of the service, which included Canticles in B flat by Stanford, Preces and Responses by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and 'Greater love hath no man' by John Ireland. This was a wonderful collaborative occasion, and the choirs enjoyed well-earned pizza and ice cream together after the event.



Paul Crosfield Choral Scholars Announced

Congratulations to the three current members of our Chapel Choir, Fiona M, Annabel L and Phoebe S, who have been announced as Paul Crosfield Choral Scholars from the start of next academic year. As Scholars they will enjoy free singing lessons, a sheet music allowance and the opportunity to work with the world-renowned Choir of Trinity College Cambridge.

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Art Scholar Meets David Hockney

Art Scholar and newly-appointed Senior Prefect, Charles D, had the incredible opportunity to escort David Hockney around his exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum on Thursday 16 June.

Charles commented: "I have a friend whose father works closely with David Hockney and when I heard he was coming to Cambridge to privately visit his exhibition I asked if I could come and meet him.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to ask him about his life, inspiration and artwork. He was very encouraging and generous with his attention and told me about the techniques and processes behind some of the paintings.

We discussed some of the conceptual ideas around his paintings of trees in the four different seasons and he told me that he was inspired by the idea that people are a lot like trees; we are all different, and every branch and every leaf is unique. Just like trees, we change and grow throughout the year, as time goes on. This was really inspiring and to cap it all, as always, he was immaculately dressed in his classic Hockney suit and even said he liked my Barker House tie!"



The Musicians

On 18-19 May, the talented Year 9 cast of *The Musicians* took to the stage for a two-night run. Both performances were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience of pupils, staff and parents, and there was some real talent on show.

In our adapted version of Patrick Marber's *The Musicians* the 'Trumpington School Youth Orchestra' travels to Prague for a big performance, but their instruments become impounded by Customs. Luckily, the cleaner, and devout Elton John fan, comes up with a plan that saves everyone.

Director of Performance Drama, Cory Pulman-Jones, commented: "I was thrilled with the whole cast who were all so focused throughout the whole process. They should be very proud of their final performances."



Matilda Jr.

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 performed an adapted version of Tim Minchin's award-winning *Matilda the Musical* on 24-25 June in Great Hall.

Based on Roald Dahl's classic, the show is packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs. The audience were delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

Cory Pulman-Jones said: "To see so many pupils on stage focusing and producing such incredibly high level work whilst really enjoying themselves was heart-warming. So many happy pupils and parents and lots of incredibly positive comments afterwards. A thoroughly entertaining show!"

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Geography Field Trip to Olympic Park

On 16 June, 68 Year 10 geographers travelled to Stratford in North London for a day of fieldwork. The aim of the day was to investigate first-hand how the regeneration of the area used for the 2012 London Olympics has resulted in social, economic and environmental impacts for the local area. In groups they walked along a transect from the 1960s housing of New Town through to the recently redeveloped East Village, which was formerly the Athletes Village during the Olympics. At each site they collected data using environmental quality surveys and kept a tally of services. Pupils were also able to carry out questionnaires with members of the public to garner their opinion on the success of the regeneration project. Most people were positive about the development saying they liked the open green spaces and local facilities, but there was a concern about the affordability of housing. From here they walked onto Hackney Wick which gave them the opportunity to see an area that is currently experiencing a transition from derelict industrial units to high-class flats and artisan bakeries. In addition to assessing the success of the regeneration, the day helped pupils develop an understanding of the fieldwork process and techniques required to collect reliable primary data which they will use in their GCSE examination next summer.



East House Raise Funds for Children's Hospital

In April, as part of our Lenten Giving activities, East House completed a sponsored 15-mile hike to raise funds which have now been donated to Angkor Hospital for Children in Cambodia. The event raised more than £5000 thanks to the generosity of pupils, parents and staff.

Their walk followed a medieval pilgrimage route, starting at the Church of All Saints in Knapwell and finishing at Great St Mary's in Cambridge. The boys' journey took them past historic buildings dating from the fourteenth century, as well as locations of historical significance such as Madingley Hall and the American Cemetery.

The fundraiser was the idea of House Chamberlain, Sam Tsang, who had previously raised funds for the Hospital with a similar initiative in Hong Kong last year. Sam commented: "After raising £2000 last year in a sponsored hike across the island of Hong Kong, I wanted to get the whole House involved in raising funds for this worthy cause. Everyone was really enthusiastic and it was a great way to unite the group. I am really pleased to have raised so much for the charity and we're sure they will put the funds to good use."

East Housemaster, Mr Dix-Pincott, added: "This year's East House Lenten Appeal event was a heart-warming day, which offered the boys the opportunity to spend some time in contemplation and building bonds of brotherhood whilst supporting a wonderful cause. We are hugely grateful for how well the event has been supported and the boys should be proud of what they have achieved."



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Lower Sixth Skills Workshops

During June our Lower Sixth took part in a series of workshops designed to prepare them for later life. Activities included food safety, financial awareness and self-defence, as well as sessions looking at the UCAS application process. Pictured is a photograph from the self-defence session, where pupils learned techniques to deal with difficult situations under the guidance of their instructor Ollie from Absolute Defence. Thank you to everyone who made the workshops such a success.



Pupils Learn Bhangra Dancing!

On Saturday 11 June, we were delighted to welcome pupils from Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, India for the day. The 33 boys in the group introduced pupils in Years 8 and 9 to Bhangra dancing, as well as sharing other aspects of Indian culture, finishing the day with a spirited group performance. What a wonderful way for our pupils to learn about another culture, whilst having a lot of fun! Thank you to Mr Fernandez for producing a great video of the day's activities, which can be viewed [here](#).

Cooking with Nehru

As part of a series of cooking sessions, Year 10 pupils observed a cooking demo given by Nehru from our catering team who talked them through how to create a Jamaican chicken curry. These sessions have been running all term and are designed to teach pupils new skills and for them to learn more about cuisines from around the world. The whole Rugg Centre smelled amazing and we're sure that the finished product tasted just as good!



SPORTING LIFE

The Leys Supports OL Fin Creighton

The Leys are proud to support PGA Assistant Professional and Old Leysian Fin Creighton, providing him with a branded golf bag for his upcoming tours. Fin will be taking part in a number of professional engagements over the summer and will be representing the school throughout.

Fin's passion for sport began at the age of five when he took up playing rugby, however it was at the age of 13 that he began playing golf with his father, a member of Girton Golf Club. Throughout his time at The Leys, Fin split his time between the two sports, playing rugby in the winter and golf during the summer.

During his time at school Fin had the opportunity to play with the Old Leysian Golf Society including a competitive game against Gresham's. Fin commented: "This was a great opportunity to play alongside Old Leysians and it gave me a lot of inspiration to take my game to the next level". Around the age of 16 his handicap began to drop dramatically, and thoughts of a future professional sporting career began.

After school Fin started working towards a professional rugby playing career, and also briefly tried an office job, but his attention quickly turned towards his passion for golf and he began working at Girton Golf Club (GGC).

To progress his career, last year Fin began a Foundation Degree course in Professional Golf Studies, a distance learning course taught through the University of Birmingham. In order to be accepted, Fin needed to maintain a handicap below 4.4 and be employed at a golf facility under the supervision of a PGA Training Professional. He is current working as Assistant Professional at GGC under Head Professional Sam Beckett and will graduate as a qualified professional in 2024.

Alongside this Fin has been playing as much as he is able, and already this year he has taken part in two Pro AM events, which offer the opportunity for professional and amateur golfers to play competitively together at world-class golf courses. He has several similar events planned at courses such as Chigwell, Saffron Walden and Ely, and he will also be taking part in singles tournaments, the next coming up later this month at Bishop's Stortford.

Fin said: "This year will be a real learning curve for me. I am using all the upcoming opportunities to build my experience playing at this level and hope to build on this in the years to come.

"It is amazing to be supported by my old school which gave me so many opportunities, and I have to thank my old teacher Geoff Howe for making it happen. I feel really proud to represent the school at all these events and it keeps me motivated during the tough times."

In the future Fin will focus on getting his professional qualification, and then hopes to become a Head Professional. He will also continue taking part in competitions and see how far he can go. We are delighted to support Fin and wish him the best of luck.



SPORTING LIFE



Rising Tennis Stars

Congratulations to Rory L and Jack S who played in the East Regional Finals of the U18 Road to Wimbledon Doubles Tournament on 18 June. They reached the semi-finals coming fourth overall, which is a great achievement for a relatively young pair.

Grand Finals for Lily

Congratulations to Year 8 netball player Lily C who competed in the ENG U13 YNPL Grand Finals on Saturday 30 April for her team, Crosskeys. They were up against strong competition playing against teams who compete in top leagues, which was a great experience and a real learning curve for them. Lily played well throughout the tournament and is delighted with their success, finishing as the sixth best team in their category.



House Athletics

There was a great atmosphere at Latham Road on Tuesday 14 June as pupils from across the school competed in this year's House Athletics competition.

Congratulations to the winning teams:

Junior Girls: Combined 'B' Houses

Junior Boys: West

Intermediate Girls: Fen

Intermediate Boys: Barrett

Senior Girls: Fen

Senior Boys: Combined 'B' Houses

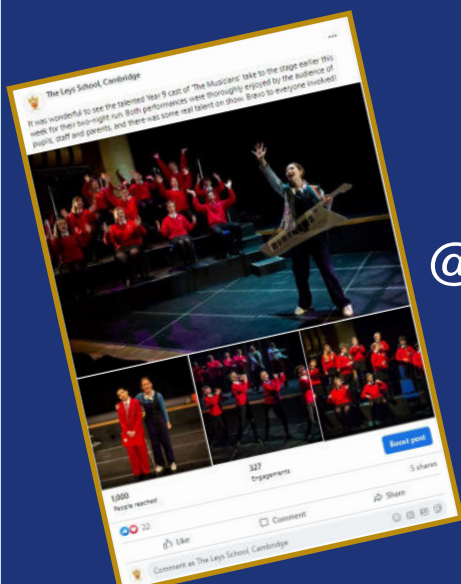


Follow Us

The school is active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, and we aim to post content about daily life at The Leys several times each week during term time. To receive our news stories in a timely way, and to be part of the conversation, please like our pages and follow our story using the links below.



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The Leys School



COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Fund making a difference in Cambridge

The Community Fund at The Leys was created in 2021, and has awarded 27 grants in this, its first full year of grant-making. It has been a pleasure to be able to empower charities and community groups in Cambridge to assist the most vulnerable, offer amazing opportunities, and help make the city a better place to live.

The projects funded included an art exhibition with disability charity Rowan, the creation of a children's choir in an area of deprivation in Cambridge, and sponsoring low-cost counselling sessions for families in need.

One impressive project was Artscaping at Cambridge Academy, which helped pupils – most of whom were ineligible for pupil premium funding – explore nature and their local area through art. One child who took part in the project commented that he had never seen the River Cam before, despite living less than a mile away, which shows the impact such community-focused programmes can have.



Next steps for the Gift of Education

We are delighted that after the launch of the Gift of Education campaign and the first Leys Giving Day, our transformative bursary scheme is having an impact. The Gift of Education, funded through the generosity of Leysian parents and OLs, gives 110% bursaries to children from low-income backgrounds who otherwise would not be able to attend The Leys. Our first pupil on the scheme will finish Upper Sixth this term, and the second pupil is also flourishing. In September, we are looking forward to welcoming one new pupil in the Lower Sixth and three in Year 9. Thank you to all the kind donors making this amazing work possible!



What's On?

Critically-Acclaimed Pianist to Perform Public Concert at The Leys

We invite you to share in the unique opportunity to see world-renowned concert pianist Sir Stephen Hough CBE in our magnificent Great Hall on Tuesday 20 September 2022, 7.30pm.

Sir Stephen, knighted for his Services to Music in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year, is looking forward to performing a spellbinding programme of pieces. He said: "It's always a special pleasure to play a concert in a school, where young people might be hearing certain works, or even a piano recital itself, for the first time. This music unites us across generations and centuries with its exploration of human longing and its expression of our common joys and sorrows."

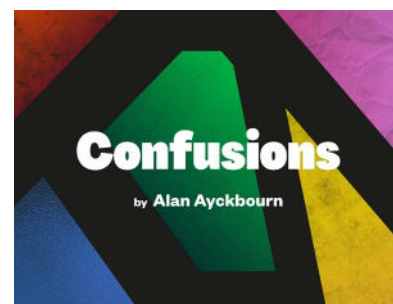
Commenting on this exciting event, Director of Music Max Kenworthy said: "We are thrilled to be welcoming Sir Stephen to The Leys. To have a performer of this calibre come to the school is a rare and exciting opportunity, not just for the school community but also for the wider audience of Cambridge and beyond. We are looking forward to his concert enormously."

www.theleys.net/boxoffice



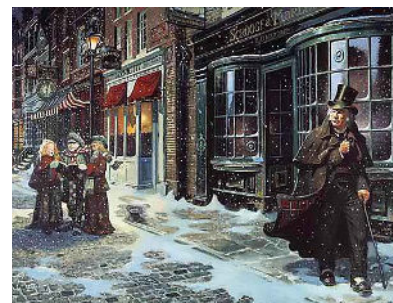
'Confusions' by Alan Ayckbourn 15-17 November

Alan Ayckbourn dishes up comedy genius across a selection of short scenes, performed by a cast of Year 11 pupils. These interlinked episodes offer an insight into the world of some memorable characters who lead ordinary lives, yet all have a need to talk. The play takes a journey across, amongst others, a fast paced but tense dinner evening and a disastrous village fête. Join us for this light-hearted observed play, delivering laughs aplenty and food for thought.



A Christmas Carol by Karen Louise Hebden from the novel by Charles Dickens 07-09 December

It's Christmas Eve in Victorian London. As the cold, bleak night draws in, the penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge is confronted by the spirit of his former business partner, Jacob Marley. An acclaimed dramatisation of Dickens' well-loved Christmas story, making use of traditional carols to underscore the action. Join us in December for a festive ghostly treat, performed by a cast of talented Senior pupils.



The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD

The Leys & St Faith's Foundation, Registered Charity No. 1144035

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