



LeysLife

Issue 10 - Autumn Term 2022



A Message from the Headmaster

As we reach the end of the first term of this new academic year, there has been much to celebrate, with pupils achieving success in all areas of school life.

Leysians have been recognised in a variety of disciplines including computing, literature, art and mathematics. I was pleased to see one of this year's Arkwright Scholars also being awarded the 'Innovation Award' which is given to just one Scholar from the region each year.

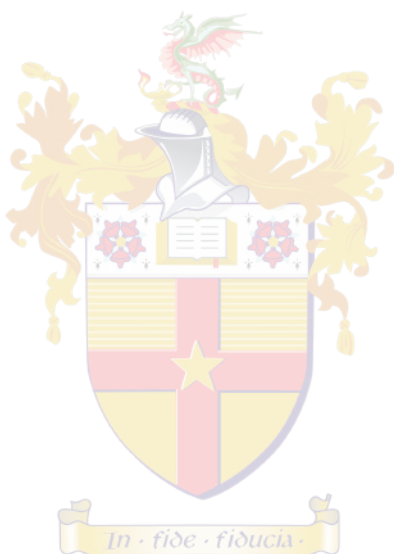
It has been wonderful to see trips back in the programme once again, with pupils travelling to Rome, the Netherlands, Snowdonia and London this term. We have also been able to invite guests to The Leys, and we have very much enjoyed welcoming students from across Cambridge and further afield to a number of events, including a Surgical Skills workshop for our aspiring medics and a series of academic lectures given by eminent speakers.

Our new Director of Sport, Carla Rudd, joined us in September and we are already benefitting from her wealth of experience as an elite sportswoman. Pupils have been excelling with notable team and individual successes; many Leysians have been called up to compete at regional and national level this term.

The cultural life of the school has, as always, flourished over the term. Productions included the Year 11 play, 'Confusions', and our Senior play, 'A Christmas Carol', as well as musical concerts taking place outside of the school grounds in Cambridge and our first ever Carol Service at Wesley's Chapel in London.

Finally I want to highlight the efforts of a group of eight pupils who led this year's Movember campaign. Not only did they successfully raise £500 for the Movember charity, they also raised awareness about men's mental health across the school community with talks in the Houses and in assemblies, and with a popular Instagram account.

I hope you enjoy this insight into life here at The Leys.



SCHOOL LIFE

First Place for Alex in International Computing Competition

Congratulation to Year 9 pupil Alexander R who has been ranked first in the Intermediate category of this year's Bebras Computing Competition, ahead of more than 185,000 participants from all over the world. In addition to this, four Leysians were placed in the Top 500 in their respective categories and two in the Top 1000.

The Bebras Computing Competition is held annually and aims to introduce computational thinking to students. It is organised in more than 50 countries and is completed online in the participants' schools.

Head of IT at The Leys, Tom Fung, commented: "I am immensely proud of all our pupils for how well they have performed in this year's competition. It has been wonderful to see this year's results and Alex's achievement in ranking first ahead of so many participants really must be celebrated. I wish all the pupils well as they head to the next invite-only competition, the Oxford University Computing Challenge, which takes place in January".



Congratulations to Ben



Year 13 pupil, Ben TB, received a Highly Commended award in this year's Trinity College Gould Prize for English Literature. This is an impressive achievement as only 20 are chosen from more than 200 applicants from all over the world.

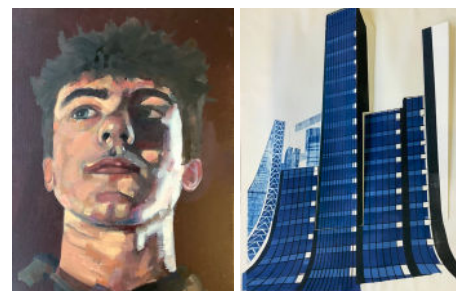
The Gould Prize is an annual competition aimed at talented Sixth Form students with an interest in English Literature and aspirations to study English courses at university level. The aim is to encourage further reading around the subject and to recognise the achievements of high-calibre students, as well as those who teach them.

Applicants are required to submit an essay on a topic chosen from a list provided. Ben chose to write about the theme of 'time' and focussed on 'Never Let Me Go' by Kazuo Ishiguro. Ben commented: "I was looking for an opportunity to write a structured essay to help enrich my personal statement and found this competition when searching online. I worked on my essay during my summer holiday in France, reading and writing in a café with questionable wifi! I really enjoyed the process and it feels great to have been highly commended."

Ben was invited to Trinity College for the prize-giving ceremony, which also included lunch and a tour of the college. He added: "It was a great opportunity to meet the Head of English and some of the tutors at Trinity College as I will be applying for Cambridge University later this year. In the future I hope to pursue literary criticism and journalism, and this whole experience has really confirmed my passion for the subject."

NADFAS exhibition

In October, six Leysians were selected to appear in the annual NADFAS exhibition and three were chosen as winners. Congratulations to Elliot S-M who won the Cambridge Drawing Society's prize for Most Innovative Work with his Skyscraper print, Miles B whose self-portrait won the Arts Society Cantab and Granta First Prize, and to Steven C who won a prize for his chalk drawing of our Chapel interior.



Maths Challenge

Well done to all 55 pupils involved in this year's Senior Maths Challenge. An incredible 13 pupils received the coveted Gold Award, achieved by the top 8-9% of entrants. Year 10 pupil Sharon D achieved a Gold Award in the competition, this is on the back of her achieving a distinction in the Invitation Cayley Competition in Year 9. Mark F received the Maths Challenge trophy for becoming Best in School for the second year running. He is now added to a long line of great Mathematicians who have won this in the past.



SCHOOL LIFE

Arkwright Scholarship Success

This term, Year 12 pupils, Monti D and George M, have been awarded a coveted Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Monti also received an additional accolade, the EMSTA Scholar's Innovation Award which is awarded to an outstanding Arkwright Scholar in the region each year.

The Arkwright programme is administered by The Smallpeice Trust, the UK's leading STEM Education Charity, and is the most prestigious scholarship scheme of its type in the UK. The scholars complete a rigorous selection process which assesses their academic, practical and leadership skills in engineering disciplines. The scholarships consist of an annual financial award to each scholar and to their school, together with enrichment activities such as mentoring and industry visits that enhance a scholar's experience of engineering in a real-world context.

Head of DT, Clive Battle, commented: "I am very pleased to be able to highlight the success our pupils who have received these scholarships. They are very difficult to get and carry huge amount of credibility in engineering industry. It is vital that we continue to challenge young minds in STEM subjects and offer the best possible learning experiences, which is made possible through programmes like this.

"I would also like to thank the Chair of EMSTA for the additional award made to Monti. It is richly deserved and recognises his outstanding enthusiasm for innovation and his passion for agricultural engineering. I wish all our Scholars well as they continue their engineering journeys and future careers."

The Leys also welcomed Arkwright Scholar Henrietta N into the Lower Sixth this year, who joins Monti and George as well last year's Scholarship recipient Alex H in the Upper Sixth.



Surgery in Schools

On Saturday 15 October, our aspiring medics participated in a Surgery in Schools workshop. Attendance was high with a total of 86 pupils, representing 12 schools and colleges in the region. Run by the Cambridge University Surgical Society (CUSS), it was a very welcome return (post-pandemic) of the popular annual initiative, an event which aims to make surgery more accessible.

This year's speaker was Eve Robertson-Waters, an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Trauma and Orthopaedics working at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Eve was joined by a team of medical students from Cambridge University who were on hand to lead a series of workshops for the pupils to try out for themselves. These sessions included suturing, simulation laparoscopy, theatre videos and interview practice, all extremely popular.

A final Q&A in Great Hall with the visiting medical students provided invaluable insight into all aspects of surgery as well as promoting surgery as a career choice. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

English Trip to The Globe

On Sunday 11 September, all Year 13 English Literature A Level pupils attended the matinee performance of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' at The Globe, London. Both A Level classes study the play as part of the OCR syllabus and seeing it performed live supported the pupils' understanding of the different ways Shakespeare's work can be interpreted. The performance was lively, colourful and had a bold contemporary twist that was highly entertaining for pupils and staff alike. Prospero, Miranda, Caliban and Ariel conjured both magic and much laughter from the audience of groundlings. The A Level course requires pupils to compare different performances and this 2022 version directed by The Globe's Associate Artistic Director, Sean Holmes, certainly provoked much discussion and analysis on the way home. For some pupils this was their first experience of visiting the Globe theatre and all greatly enjoyed the experience!



Year 10 Navy Cadets trip to Portsmouth

Year 10 Navy cadets enjoyed a sunny trip to Portsmouth in October. They experienced an exhilarating day of yacht sailing out on The Solent in strong spring tides and force-five winds, as well the chance to visit the Submarine Museum, HMS Warrior, Victory, Mary Rose, Action Stations and Spinnaker Tower.



Geography Trip to Snowdonia

Our Year 8 pupils headed out on Sunday 16 October to Snowdonia, Wales. They enjoyed a packed schedule of climbing, gorge walking, and hikes through the mountains.



Half Term Trips to Rome and the Netherlands

During half term our Classicists travelled to Rome for an amazing couple of days of history and culture. They went to the archaeological site of Ostia Antica, with the theatre being a particular highlight, as well as taking tours of Palatine Hill, the Colosseum, St Clement's Basilica, the Roman Forum and the Capitoline Museum.



They also marvelled at the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, the Trevi Fountain, the Four Rivers Fountain in Piazza Navona and the Pantheon, as well as visiting the Palazzo Massimo and the Baths of Diocletian.

Meanwhile, our Art and Design pupils travelled to the Netherlands, visiting The Hague, Otterlo and Amsterdam. They saw some incredible immersive and interactive contemporary art and rediscovered the awe-inspiring Golden Age Dutch masters. A real whirlwind of art and inspiration!



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Academic Lectures

This term, Academic prefect Florence T has been tasking some of our pupils with writing reviews and summaries of our series of academic lectures here at The Leys:



‘Learning to Learn’ Bradley Busch and Edward Watson

On Monday 26 September, the first lecture of the academic year commenced with a fabulous turn out in Great Hall. It was given by Bradley Busch and Edward Watson on ‘Learning to Learn’. They specialise in Growth Mindset, Metacognition and stress management strategies and give these lectures to help develop better learners and how to deal with the pressures of exam stress, which was widely appreciated by both parents and pupils, and to gain an insight into how our brains cope at different ages. Interestingly, they also included what does and doesn’t work regarding stress, sleep, and exam revision, explaining that little sleep, shocking exam revision techniques and too much stress to the teenage brain is the worst things a teenager can do over exam periods. Lucy P said: “It was interesting to see how teenagers brains are so different to the adult brain in how they interpret different information.” Pupils, parents and staff all thoroughly enjoyed their talk, with a different interpretation on why sleep and stress management is so important.

Written by Alice K

Sir Menelaos Pangalos

On Thursday 6 October, we were lucky enough to be visited by Sir Menelaos Pangalos, who aside from has a very long list of achievements in the field of biopharmaceuticals, is most notably the executive vice president of Astra Zeneca. He gave a very concise and informative talk on how the company goes about creating new drugs and how it goes from an idea of what disease or illness they wish to treat to saving people’s lives. Despite talking about some complicated parts of the process, he managed to make it easily accessible to the many pupils and visitors watching. After the talk finished, there were questions asked on the AstraZeneca vaccine and some on the ethics behind the work done at the company, which he eloquently answered in a very easy to follow manner. After this, everyone was invited to have some food and drink and were given the opportunity to discuss some of the information more closely. Overall, it was a great experience to listen to such an impressive man talk about such an interesting company, which has more than just biologists and chemists but also requires huge teams from all backgrounds and educations.

Written by Harry L



Amy Williams MBE

Leysians and Parents were welcomed on Monday 17 October by Amy Williams MBE, a former Winter Olympic Gold Medalist in the Skeleton. Her passion and energy were contagious throughout the evening as she reflected on her past experiences as a professional athlete whilst also mentioning the steps that she had to take to get involved in the sport of Skeleton. Her approach of ‘try everything’ was emulated throughout the evening and the principle of going that extra step no matter how small, was emphasised. All were enthralled by Amy’s motivational words and we thank her for travelling to The Leys and sharing her experiences.

Written by Finn H

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Music Scholars perform at Great St Mary's

This term, an audience of pupils, staff, parents and the general public were treated to a concert given by some of our Music Scholars. The programme was varied, including works by Bach, Debussy and Vaughan Williams, and all in the glorious surroundings of Great St Mary's in the centre of Cambridge. Bravo to Alex, Jacob, Sonia, James, Oscar, Oscar, Fiona and Lucas, who all performed brilliantly.



Autumn Concert

Our Autumn Concert was held in Great Hall on 25 November. The concert featured pupils from across the school in a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles.



Chapel Choir Carol Service at Wesley's Chapel

On Friday 2 December, our Chapel Choir travelled to London to sing at our first ever Carol Service held at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. There was a wonderfully festive atmosphere, and we hope this will be the start of an annual tradition.



Confusions

In November, the three-night run of our Year 11 play 'Confusions' was a great success. The play took a journey across a series of interlinking episodes including a fast paced but tense dinner evening and a disastrous village fête.



A Christmas Carol

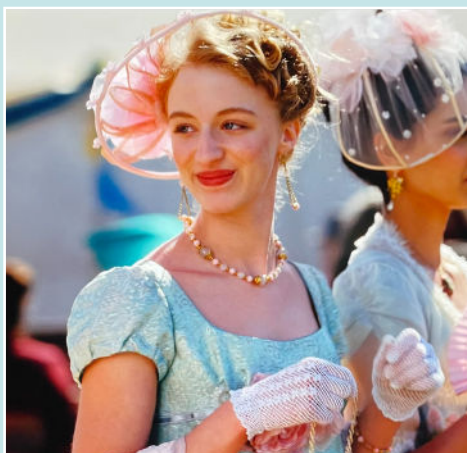
In December, pupils performed Charles Dickens' famous 'A Christmas Carol' by Karen Louise Hebden. A story about a mean-spirited miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who hates Christmas and is visited by three spirits who help him see the error of his ways. It was wonderful to see pupils come together and get excited for the Christmas season.



Drama Scholars Workshop

On Thursday 20 October our Drama Scholars from Years 9-13 took part in a comedy and improvisation workshop. Our facilitator, Kevin, delivered a practical session including advice on how to produce comedy in an inclusive and non-controversial way.

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Amira returns to 'Bridgerton'

Sixth Form Drama Scholar, Amira A, returns to Emmy-nominated Netflix drama 'Bridgerton' for Season 3. Amira was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to take a non-speaking role in Season 2 of 'Bridgerton', the Emmy-nominated Netflix drama based on Julia Quinn's bestselling romance series. This summer she had the privilege of filming for Season 3, where she has been cast as a 'Debutante'.

Amira commented: "Season 2 was my first acting job and it was incredibly nerve wracking, especially as I was the youngest there! However, I quickly learnt how things work on set and met the most inspiring people and even got to talk to the main cast! One of the scenes I filmed was at Ascot Racecourse where we all got to watch the horses actually race, which was so much fun. This summer I filmed for Season 3 and travelled to lots of amazing places; it was the experience of a lifetime!"

November

Throughout November, eight pupils in our Upper Sixth grew moustaches in order to raise money for the Movember charity. Their efforts successfully raised more than £500, which will help raise awareness and fund treatments for men's cancer, mental health services and suicide prevention.

Throughout the month the team gave talks in our Houses, made badges, and presented assemblies, channelling awareness and fundraising through their Instagram account. To mark the end of their campaign, and for one final fundraising push, the boys completed a combined 60-kilometre run around the field at lunchtime on Thursday 1 December; 60 kilometres as we lose 60 men to suicide every hour around the world.

Alex H, one of the pupils involved, commented: "Thank you to everyone who has supported our endeavours in promoting men's mental health around the school. We must remember that mental health will still exist after November. It is up to us, as a community, to continue to support each other. No matter how big or small the challenge you're facing, you will never walk alone."



CCF Success

Over half term, three of our pupils took part in the Senior Cadet Instructor Course (SCIC), which initiates Senior Cadets in the art of leadership and trains them to instruct to a two-star level. The course instructors were very impressed with the high standard of our Cadets and awarded them all 'Highly Competent', the highest grade possible. Well done to Harry, Sofia and Monti who return to The Leys as Subject Matter Experts within the CCF.

SPORTING LIFE



A New Director of Sport

We were delighted to welcome a new Director of Sport, cricketer Carla Rudd, who joined at start of the Autumn Term. Carla's arrival came just days after finishing in second place as part of the Southern Brave team in this year's The Hundred competition.

Carla has played sport from a young age, and attributes physical activity as the key to becoming the person she is today. She explains: "I was encouraged to play sport from a young age by my parents and teachers, so at every opportunity I took part. Through participation, I found the love and the passion from an early age and it has remained an integral, and important, part of my life."

Success for Freya

Year 11 cricketer Freya H has successfully secured a place in the Sunrisers Emerging Player Programme (EPP). This achievement comes after being awarded U15 Female Player of the Year and Cambridgeshire County Female Player of the Year at the Cambridgeshire County Cricket Awards in September.

Freya will now join players from across London and the South East region in weekly sessions designed to develop their abilities for future selection to the Sunrisers Academy of full squad. The programme has a holistic approach to player development including sessions focussing on fitness and sports psychology alongside batting and bowling skills training.



The Cricketer Top 100

The Leys School is delighted to be named in The Cricketer's Schools Guide for 2023 as one of the UK's best schools for cricket.

This year's guide features the top 100 senior, top 50 prep and junior schools, and the top 20 all-girls schools for cricket in a 156-page supplement.

Mr Richard Kaufman, Head of Cricket at The Leys, said: "The Cricketer's Schools Guide Top 100, highlights schools with the best facilities, teachers and achievements in the previous year. We are delighted to be included in this fantastic publication. The Leys strives to provide an excellent environment, for both boys and girls, to develop their cricket, alongside their education."

The Guide also includes an interview with Director of Sport, Carla Rudd, in which she discussed her first impressions of The Leys and her plans for the future.



First Team Sponsors Knight Frank

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with Knight Frank, Cambridge, our first team sponsors from the 2022-23 academic year. Representatives from Knight Frank and current Leys parents, Michael Houlden and Paddy Pritchard-Gordon, visited this term to see the new kit and meet with some of our 1st XV. We thank them for their support as we look forward to another successful year of sport at The Leys.



SPORTING LIFE

Cambridge Autumn Head

Congratulations to all our pupils who took part in this year's Cambridge Small Boats Head in October. A special well done to our J16 and J18 single scullers, Monty H and Adelya E, and our Junior coxed quads who placed in first in their respective categories. They were presented with their medals and t-shirts by their coach, Mr Fanourakis.



Gold for Frank

Well done to Year 9 pupil Frank J, who has recently won two gold and two silver medals in this year's Cambridge Grand Prix. His performance included two personal bests and comes just weeks after successful personal performances in the Arena League and the Swim England National County Team Championships. Frank's dedication to swimming includes an impressive eleven hours of training each week and recently included a trip to Mallorca where he swam for a minimum of four hours each day. We wish him well for his future events.

Young Lions Invitational

Congratulations to cricketer Noah T who took part in the Young Lions three-day invitational in Loughborough from 16-18 September. His performance for both Essex and London East led to him being chosen along with only 23 others to take part, earmarked as a potential England player of the future.



Golf Success for Harry

Well done to Year 11 pupil Harry W who has recently been selected for the Suffolk County Golf U18 elite training group for this winter. This means he will now be training alongside some of the highest-level junior golfers in the country, including last year's captain of the England U18 team. We wish him well and look forward to hearing more about his golfing journey.



Follow Us

We are active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, and 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.



@theleysschoolcambridge



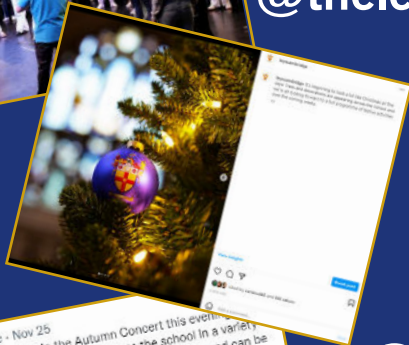
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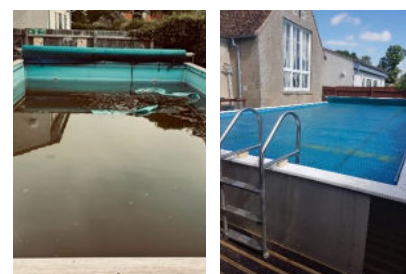
COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Fund making a difference in Cambridge



The Community Fund awarded grants to a broad number of groups across Cambridge and to Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission for a huge range of activities. The 27th Cambridge Scouts received a grant of £1,000 to support a trip for approximately 20-25 young people to ESSA, a charity providing water sports activities. Thanks to the grant, the camp became more affordable for local families and enabled more Scouts to attend. The first weekend in July, 27 Scouts and three adults spent the weekend at a Paddle Sports Camp with an aim to complete the BSC Discover award. They all had great fun and even built rafts from barrels and staves, some more successfully than others!

The Community Fund also supported Burrough Green Primary School with the refurbishment of their swimming pool. The grant received went towards the purchase and installation of a replacement pool liner, pool side decking, a new hose pipe for the vacuum system, and the refurbishment of the changing facilities and pool plant equipment. The pool officially reopened on Monday 6 June. BGPS children were delighted to be able to swim twice a week as their PE activity. Some children had never been swimming before and the benefit to them was significant. It was heart-warming to hear about their excellent progress over the summer term, quickly acquiring water familiarisation and safety skills.



As the new academic year began, the IT Department had a number of recycled iPads ready to be donated. These were split between four local primary schools; Swavesey Primary School, Shirley Community Primary School, Hemingford Grey and Arbury School. A grant from the Community Fund ensured that the iPads could be rehomed with enough new suitable cables and chargers.

Gift of Education



We are delighted to announce that Zara N, the first pupil matched to The Leys by our partner organisation the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation (RNSCF), successfully completed her studies with us and left the School in July this year.

As was the case for all of the 2022 Leavers, the last two years presented many challenges, but Zara was able to significantly exceed her A-Level predictions and is excited to be taking up her place at King's College London this term to study Geography. Congratulations to Zara and all of our 2022 Leavers for all their dedication and well-deserved success.

"Whilst joining during the pandemic was a challenging experience, the endless support I received from both staff and the overall community made my time thoroughly enjoyable", says Zara. "I've now left the School with fond memories and close friends I'm so thankful to have met. It was an absolute honour to be the first RNSCF student to join The Leys and I hope I've opened up opportunities for my fellow Springboarders to flourish as I myself did. Wishing the very best for them all!"

At the beginning of this academic year we welcomed three more pupils to The Leys as part of the programme, two in Year 9 and one in Lower Sixth. Our current Upper Sixth pupil will soon be making an application to read Medicine at university, and over the summer was given the opportunity to gain invaluable work experience at Guy's and St Thomas' hospital. "The scope of learning was endless", she says. "Being around doctors who are so dedicated and devoted to their profession absolutely solidified my desire for a career in Medicine."

As we celebrate the successes of our bursary programme pupils, we are proud and delighted that they have committed to The Leys and have agreed to become part of our Leysian community. We look forward to an exciting future in partnership with the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation (RNSCF), the UK's largest boarding school bursary charity, and continue the fundraising efforts required to support more young people here at The Leys so they can gain access to the education they deserve. Heartfelt thanks to all in our Leysian community who provide financial support to the Gift of Education programme; without their generosity none of this would be possible.

This year we held our first Leys Giving Day which raised an amazing £27,300 for The Gift of Education and for good causes in our community. Save the date for the next Leys Giving Day – 24 March 2023.

What's On?

Drama Scholars' Showcase

Wednesday 18 January, 7.15pm

Chapel

Symphonia Showcase Concert

Friday 27 January, 7.15pm

Recital Hall

'The It' Year 10 Play

Wednesday 8 February, 7.15pm & Thursday 9 February, 7.15pm

Great Hall

Music Scholars' Concert

Monday 27 February, 7pm

Recital Hall

The Leys Choral Society Concert

Saturday 18 March 19:30

Chapel

The Leys Dance Show

Wednesday 22 March 19:15

Great Hall



The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD

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

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