



LeysLife

Issue 11 - Lent Term 2023



A Message from the Headmaster

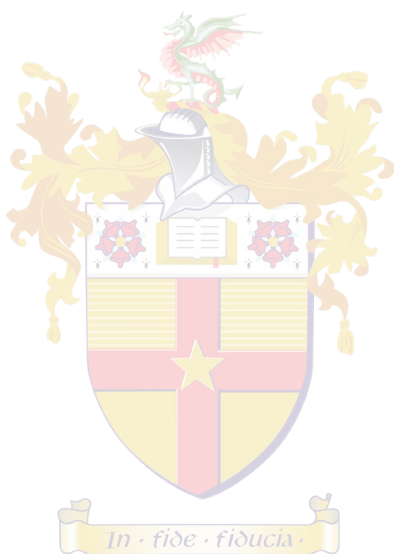
The Lent Term began with very positive news. Following a rigorous inspection, the Independent School Inspectorate published their report which awarded The Leys the rating of 'Excellent' across the board. This was a resoundingly positive outcome and one of which I hope all stakeholders can be proud. These are the highest findings available but to read so many superlatives in the body of the Educational Quality Inspection was heart-warming. A link to the full report can be found in this newsletter.

Academic life at The Leys continues to thrive, with Leysians seeing success in a variety of fields, including two Gold awards in recent Olympiads. We have also been fortunate to host a number of high-profile speakers which have included Old Leysians as well as other eminent professionals and academics. The careers talks in particular have been hugely valuable to our pupils with topics this term ranging from Finance and Law to TV and Film Production.

Outside of the classroom, the Music, Drama and Dance Departments have all been busy as always. There have been a number of opportunities for pupils to perform on the stage in Great Hall, such as the recent live dance show, 'Elements', and the Year 10 play, 'The It'. Regular concerts have also continued such as 'Lunchtime Live' on Friday lunchtimes, and 'Live at Balgarnie's' which are very well attended.

It is always wonderful to see Leysians making a positive contribution to the local community and this term, through the Personal Development and Leadership programme, pupils have been volunteering their time to help a number of local causes. It is particularly pleasing to see our partnership with Great Abington Primary School flourishing, with both staff and pupils contributing to their sporting programme.

The term ended with our second 'Giving Day' following the success of last year's event. The funds raised will go to support our fully-funded bursary programme and I'd like to thank everyone who contributed for their support.



LATEST NEWS

The Leys is Rated Excellent in ISI Inspection

We are delighted that following an inspection by the Independent School Inspectorate (ISI), The Leys has been awarded the highest possible rating.

Headmaster, Martin Priestley, commented: "I have great pleasure in sharing with you the [Inspection Report](#) published by the Independent Schools Inspectorate following their recent Regulatory and Educational Quality Inspection at The Leys School.

"Reading this report, I am sure you too will be struck by how impressed the inspection team was with the achievements and progress made by Leysian pupils. I am very proud of the pupils themselves, but I also want to pay tribute to all my colleagues – both teaching and support staff – without whose hard work in preparing for the inspection this outstanding outcome would not have been forthcoming.

"You will of course want to read the report in full, and you are warmly invited to do so. In summary, however, the School not only achieved full regulatory compliance but also secured a finding of "Excellent" in both the main inspection headings: for the quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements, and the quality of the pupils' personal development.

"As ever, there are pointers for further development and improvement and we welcome these insights. Senior colleagues and I have already begun work drawing up an Action Plan to address the report's detailed findings and recommendations, so that the process of refinement and further improvement continues apace."



A New Website for The Leys

In January we launched a brand-new website with a fresh new look, user-friendly navigation and interactive features.

Highlights include interactive elements such a site map, allowing users to explore our campus online, and a world map featuring video interviews with some of our international pupils. There is also an enhanced Admissions section which better explains the process for prospective families and overseas agents, giving them easy access to all the information they need.

Fane Henderson, Head of Marketing, commented: "We are very pleased with the new website and thank our new partners, MSO, who we worked very closely with to realise the project. We hope that the site is well received by all users, and that it offers a glimpse of what a special place The Leys is."

The School will continue to update the site constantly with our latest news, as well as regularly updating information, video content and imagery.

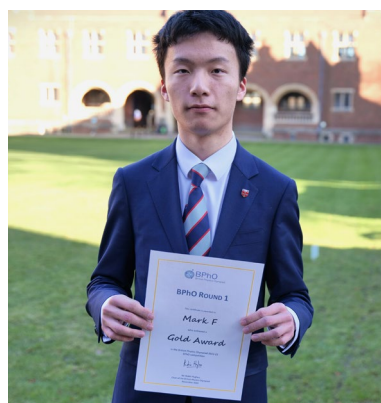


SCHOOL LIFE

Gold Award for Leysian Physicist

Upper Sixth pupil Mark F has received a Gold award in the 2022 British Physics Olympiad, placing him in the top 8% nationally. Isaac K also gained a Silver award, and Derek L, Kerem O and John W all gained Bronze awards.

The pupils sat the papers on 11 November 2022 and the three hours of questions challenged their range of knowledge, preparation skills, and ability. The aim of the Olympiad is to stretch and challenge the top young physicists in the country, preparing them for future study and giving them deeper understanding of the ideas and applications of physics.



Mr Harmsworth, Head of Physics, commented: "All questions required very different perspectives to get the measure of them. Time and perseverance were needed to master this challenge as they are not your everyday A Level Physics questions. The pupils have once again done very well and we are very proud of the effort they all put in to tackle the papers."

Top performer Mark has recently received a conditional offer from Emmanuel College, Cambridge where he hopes to study Engineering.

Ella is Highly Commended in Essay Competition

Well done to Upper Sixth pupil, Ella D, who has received a Highly Commended award in this year's School Essay Competition run by the Royal Geographical Society and the Financial Times.



Edward Takes Gold in UK Linguistics Olympiad

Lower Sixth pupil Edward S achieved a Gold award in the first round of the 2023 UK Linguistics Olympiad Advanced Paper, placing him in the top 5% nationally. In addition, Louisa H and Ryan Y achieved Bronze awards.

14 Leysians sat the paper on 7 and 8 February 2023 and the two and a half hours of questions challenged them to solve problems in a range of languages: Albanian, Lardil, Meroitic, K'iche' and Filomena Mata Totonac. The questions demanded a high level of inferential and deductive reasoning from the pupils as they were required to translate, transliterate, identify ideophones (words that evoke a sensory image as well as having a literal meaning) and deduce pronouns in the various languages. Edward has now qualified to enter Round Two of the competition, along with 90 others of the original 1686 contestants.

Mr Welby, Head of Classics, commented: "We had a record entry this year and the pupils further showed their commitment by applying themselves with great perseverance to what the organisers admitted was an unusually difficult paper this year. A Gold award is an exceptional achievement for Edward and I am delighted that so many other pupils were willing to take on such a tough challenge."



Second place in the East Regional Spanish Debating Competition

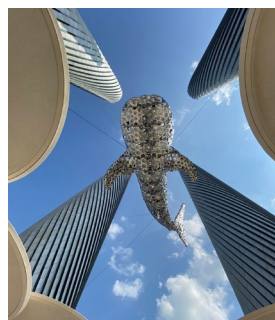
Lower Sixth pupils Emily H and Egor T took second place in the East Regional Spanish Debating Competition held on 10 March. Competing against nine other schools they won the first two rounds convincingly, proceeding to the final against a team from The Perse. It was a very enjoyable experience and they gained a lot from the competition, receiving many positive comments from teachers and other participants on their performance.



SCHOOL LIFE

Cambridge Rotary Young Photographer Competition

Well done to Year 9 pupil Alex R who has been judged the overall winner in the intermediate age category in the recent Cambridge Rotary Young Photographer competition. This year's theme was 'The Beauty of Architecture' and the judges were very impressed with his photo 'Verre Vestibule'. Lower Sixth pupil Hazel C received a Commended for her photograph 'Afloat' in the senior age category.



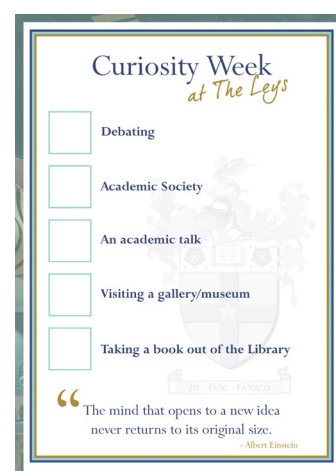
Protein Data Bank Calendar

Sixth Form pupils Beatrice G, John W and Amelia M, have all had work selected to feature in this year's PDB calendar. All Lower Sixth artists submitted pieces centred around the idea of 'Visualising the world of protein'. The standard of work was particularly high and well done to those whose art was chosen.



Curiosity Week

Congratulations to the 70+ Year 9 pupils who achieved three or more stamps during our Curiosity Week earlier this term. Pupils were required to complete a range of activities to gain their stamps, including attending academic talks, visiting museums and taking part in debating. They were presented with their certificates last week by Academic Prefect Florence T, who did a fantastic job organising the event for them.



Geogpod

Our pupil-produced Geography podcast, 'Geogpod', was launched on Apple and Spotify podcast platforms earlier this term. In this first episode, Sixth Form geographers Miles K and Chloe T explore whether fracking should play a part in the UK's energy mix. [Listen now.](#)



Let's go Zero

The Leys has recently decided to join the Let's go Zero campaign alongside 2000 schools across the country. This includes a pledge to achieve Zero Carbon by 2030. Well done to our Sustainability Society for driving this initiative and for continuing to raise awareness and reinforce the importance of acting sustainably throughout the whole school community.



GUEST SPEAKERS



Sam Regan-Asante

It was wonderful to welcome back OL Sam Regan-Asante on 4 February to meet with our Lower Sixth. He spoke to them with great insight and honesty about his fascinating career and how he made the move from school pupil to successful entrepreneur specialising in running high growth social media companies. He highlighted moments of great success but also the pressures he faced and how he made difficult decisions. His key messages were to treat everyone with kindness and respect, and to seize every moment.

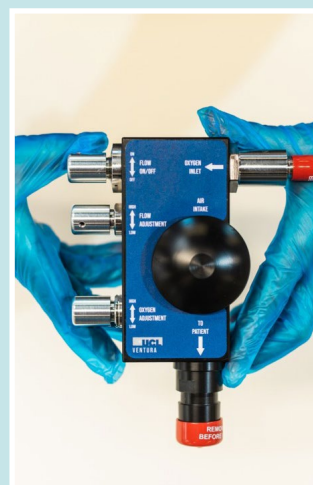
Jeffrey Boakye

On 21 February Jeffrey Boakye, one of the UK's leading voices on issues of education, anti-racism, popular culture and masculinity, joined us via live stream in Great Hall. The audience of pupils, staff and guests found his talk, followed by a Q&A, engaging, challenging and deeply inspiring.



OL Professor Tim Baker MBE and Professor Rebecca Shipley OBE

On 22 February, OL Professor Tim Baker MBE and Professor Rebecca Shipley OBE visited to speak with pupils from across the school about their experience as co-leaders of the UCL-Ventura project. The project started with a corridor conversation at UCL and led to a team of thousands working together to develop breathing aids in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, delivering 10,000 units to the NHS within one month. The presentations were truly inspirational and finished with some engaging Q&A sessions.



Dr Karina Jakubowicz

Dr Karina Jakubowicz led a fantastic lecture on 14 March focussing on "Language in George Orwell's 1984". Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth pupils studying dystopian literature gained incredible insight into Orwell's (sometimes contradictory!) beliefs about language and society, and the lasting influence of 1984.



Sir Rodric Braithwaite

On 15 March we were delighted to welcome Sir Rodric Braithwaite to deliver a talk based on his latest book 'Russia: Myths and Realities' to our pupils. He offered fascinating insights from his time as British Ambassador to Moscow during the end of the Cold War, as well as sharing his thoughts on the current political situation and the future. His talk ended with an engaging Q&A with staff and pupils.

TRIPS

Year 11 GCSE Art Trip

On 24 February, Year 11 GCSE Art pupils spent the morning at the Tate Britain before boarding the Thames Uber boat across to the Tate Modern for the afternoon. Pupils took photos and sketches to inspire them and to add to their GCSE coursework.



Classics Trip to Bloomsbury Theatre

On 10 February, some of our Sixth Form pupils studying Greek and Classical Civilisation travelled to the Bloomsbury Theatre to see a production of Plato's Symposium. What a great way for them to see a text they are studying brought to life. Here they are waiting for the show to start.



Year 9 Battlefields Trip

In early March, Year 9 pupils travelled to France to visit a number of locations relating to the Battle of the Somme, including Newfoundland Park, Thiepval and Delville Wood. They later travelled to Ypres, Belgium, where their itinerary included visits to St George's Memorial Church, Essex Farm Cemetery and the Menin Gate. Before heading home they also paid a visit to the Arras Memorial.



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

World Culture Evening

On 24 February, we held our annual World Culture Evening. The event began with presentations and performances in Great Hall, followed by a chance to learn about the different cultures from pupil representatives and to sample traditional food and drink. What a wonderful way to celebrate the international diversity at the school and what a valuable contribution this adds to everyday life.



School House Run for Annabelle's Challenge

In early March, the boys of School House raised an incredible £3,700 for a charity close to the school's heart, Annabelle's Challenge. Congratulations to the boys for their hard work leading up to the run, training both outside in all kinds of weather and in the gym.



Fairtrade bake sale

Despite the wet weather, on Thursday 9 March pupils in the Fairtrade Society ran a bake sale. All items were baked using Fairtrade ingredients and together they raised £78 which has all been donated towards the Fairtrade Foundations.



Moulton House charity run

On 17 March Moulton House pupils headed off on a sponsored run, heading up the river to Grantchester and back. This was their first Lenten Giving event raising money for Winston Wish, who provide support to bereaved children.

SPORT

Netball and Hockey Tour

Pupils on the Netball and Hockey tour to Belfast had a wonderful time. The trip included plenty of opportunities for competitive match play, as well as the chance to blow off steam with activities like karaoke and We Are Vertigo. A great way to start their February half term break!



Top 100 GB Ranking Tennis Stars

Year 11 pupils, Marton H and Jack S, have both placed in the U16 Top 100 Tennis Players in Great Britain. This is a fantastic achievement for both boys,

placing 30th and 93rd respectively. This comes after a successful year which saw Marton finish in first place at the Regional Tournaments, and Jack placing first in the Hunstanton Tournament.

To place in the U16 Top 100 Tennis Players both Marton and Jack played around 200 games, travelling around the country most weekends, gathering points for each win to determine their overall ranking. Playing against both U16 and U18 players, the boys were pushed to their limits and are very proud of what they have managed to achieve.



Swimming achievement

Well done to Year 9 pupil Frank J who won one gold and two bronze medals at the final session of the Cambridge County Swimming Championships at the weekend. This brings his total to nine gold, one silver and two bronze across the competition. A phenomenal achievement!

Bath Cup Victory

On 10 March, Upper Sixth pupils Austyn J, Chris H, Alex H and Isaac H finished in first place in the Small Schools Medley Relay event at the Bath Cup. They were awarded with the Dunelm Cup as the fastest 'Small School' in the country; the school last winning this cup in 1939.

The Bath Cup competition took place at The London Aquatics Centre in the main 50m pool. The event has been running since 1923, making this year the centenary of the competition. The boys' team qualified for the final of the Dunelm Cup having finished their heat as the fastest team. They led the final from the start with a winning time of 1:56:35, ahead of Lancing College and Cheltenham College, who came second and third respectively.



Head of Swimming at The Leys, Harriet Lee, commented: "This was a story of real resilience. These four boys have stuck together through the pandemic and lockdown, and their fourth place finish last year just spurred them on to do better. It is fantastic that the school has taken this trophy for the first time in more than 80 years, and it is testament to the hard work and dedication the pupils have shown."



SPORT

U16s Reach Rosslyn Park Semi Final

The Leys School U16 Rugby Sevens team successfully reached the Semi Finals of the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens Tournament on Wednesday 22 March. This places them in the top four from a total of 216 schools who entered the tournament; the furthest a side from the school has gone in this competition.

The tournament at Rosslyn Park has been held annually since 1939 and is the largest school rugby tournament in the world. Each year the country's top sporting schools compete in a full Cup format.

This year's tournament started well for the Leysian side, with victories over The Cathedral School Llandaff, Perins School and West Monmouth School, progressing from the Group Stage with ease. They then faced Worth School to qualify for Day Two, cruising to victory over a strong side 36-5.

On Day Two opponents were much tougher, however the team continued their streak with a 14-12 win over Trinity Croydon, a 12-10 win against Bromsgrove, and a comfortable victory over Haileybury 24-12. Another solid performance saw a 17-10 victory in the Quarter Finals against Whitgift and a place in the Semi Finals. Unfortunately, a narrow 7-10 defeat against Bromsgrove, who had qualified as best Runners Up, meant that was the end of the tournament for the team, but their performance throughout was nothing short of exceptional.

Head of Rugby at The Leys, James Clark, commented: "I cannot thank the boys enough for their attitude and approach to training and for their Herculean efforts over the tournament; they gave everything and left nothing out there. I also need to thank Mr Coe and Mr Murray for being the ultimate professionals and giving the boys their absolute best.

"They set the highest standards in all that they did, and when they combine that with their incredible ability, it is no surprise they performed as well as they did. I am so proud to have coached them and count myself very lucky to have been part of their journey."

Squad: Mark M-A, James P, Ewan S, Arthur N, Ollie S, Yusef A, Zac R, William M, Ed S, Cameron F, Alex W, Sam W



MUSIC

Symphonia Showcase Concert

Well done to all performers at the Symphonia Showcase Concert. From Bach to the Foo Fighters, there was a great variety of genres from pupils across the year groups. Bravo!



Lunchtime Live

'Lunchtime Live' has been taking place on Friday lunchtimes throughout the term. These concerts offer a chance for our pupils to perform to their peers in an informal setting, giving them confidence and performance experience.

Highlights have included a number of opportunities for our pupils to play alongside their music teachers. Repertoire has been wide ranging from Beethoven to Metallica, and all concerts have been well attended by pupils from all year groups.



Chapel Choir sing Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral

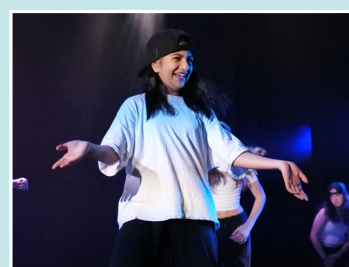
In March our Chapel Choir travelled to Peterborough Cathedral to sing at Evensong. They performed Responses by Ayleward, Canticles in D by Herbert Brewer and the anthem was 'O Saviour of the World' by John Goss. After the concert they enjoyed a well-deserved meal at Pizza Express!



DANCE AND DRAMA

'Elements'

On 22 March, our dancers performed their live show 'Elements' which included hip-hop, street, aerial circus, contemporary, jazz, ballet and acrobatics. There were some truly breathtaking group and individual performances throughout.



'Letters out Loud'

It was wonderful to see our Drama Scholars' performance of 'Letters out Loud' on Thursday 19 January. Scholars read letters written by famous historical figures or celebrities, both past and present. It was a fantastic evening, with such riveting and amazing performances from everyone involved!



'The It'

In February, Year 10 took to the stage for their two-night run of 'The It'. The show tells the story of a teenage girl who has something growing inside her and explores themes of adolescent mental health and inner turmoil.



NYT Auditions

On 24 February Leysian Dramatists from Years 9-13 auditioned for the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. Following a three-hour workshop with NYT associate Fumi Gomez, each pupil performed a prepared monologue from a published play. The pupils had a great time exploring physical, ensemble and collaborative work. Selection is very competitive, but pupils will find out if they have been successful in May.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Trumpington Meadows

On 18 January, a group of Year 11 volunteers helped to plant trees at Trumpington Meadows as part of their Personal Development and Leadership programme. The PDL afternoons are undertaken by pupils in Year 10, 11 and Lower Sixth and aim to develop confidence and leadership skills, as well as providing a service to our local community.



Volunteering with Rowan

Lower Sixth pupils Ginny B and Lilly C have been volunteering with Rowan ambridge every week since the start of this academic year. Rowan is a charity set up to provide an arts centre and forest school for adults with learning disabilities. The girls have been helping with a variety of tasks from moving and cleaning garden chairs to sorting out ceramics stock, cutting out silhouettes for window displays, sorting canvases and making ceramic prototype eggcups.



Great Abington Primary School Partnership

Our partnership with Great Abington Primary School has been growing in strength, with a number of sporting initiatives taking place over the Lent Term.

Pupils from Great Abington have had the chance to work on their hockey skills with Sixth Form pupils Noah T and Georgia W-J, as well as members of our sports staff. This has resulted in a second place finish in the recent Small Schools Hockey Tournament.

Mr Rigden and Mr Durrant have been doing some rugby coaching with their pupils. They have made great progress which was seen in a tag rugby tournament tournament they competed in.

At the end of the term, our Year 11 Sports Leaders held a Sports Festival for the pupils. The group have been working on this since the beginning of term and through the process have been applying a variety of skills such as communication, organisation and differentiation. The visiting children had a fantastic afternoon, and we are very impressed with everything our pupils put together for them.



CAREERS

Careers in Finance Workshop with PEM

On 17 March we welcomed PEM, the Cambridge accountancy firm, who ran a fantastic Careers in Finance workshop. Open to Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils from all Cambridgeshire secondary schools and colleges, the event provided an insight into working in accountancy, taxation, business advisory/recovery, and corporate finance. Pupils took part in a series of small group activities, talks and a final Q&A in the Great Hall. A huge thank you to PEM for such an insightful afternoon.



Katherine Roseveare

On February 28 Katherine Roseveare visited to talk about her role as General Counsel for adidas and how she supports the brand's global business. Providing a fascinating insight into what a lawyer for adidas does and how legal teams support different aspects of the brand's global business, she answered questions about the many brand collaborations she has worked on for adidas including partnerships with The Football Association, Stella McCartney, Lionel Messi, Pharrell Williams and Disney's latest Black Panther film. A very interesting talk and attended by close to 50 Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils.



Tom Petch

On 26 January, OL Tom Petch returned to The Leys to give a fascinating talk to pupils in Year 11 and Sixth Form. He explained his career journey so far, from his time in the military to his work in the TV and film industry. There was also a chance for pupils to get a signed copy of his newly-released book: Speed, Aggression, Surprise. It was great to see so many in attendance and we hope they have been inspired by the session.



Simon Fraser

Simon Fraser came into The Leys on 29 February to talk about the journey and growth of Hot Numbers, Cambridge's most loved chain of independent coffee-houses that Simon started in 2011. Combining his love of good coffee, jazz and his engineering studies, Simon spoke passionately about launching a successful business in hospitality, how living in Australia inspired his coffee-based brainwave, a passion for roasting his own coffee and why a motorbike is perched on the beams above his Roastery's coffee bar.



2023 Careers Forum

On 6 March our pupils and guest students from around Cambridgeshire attended the annual Careers Forum held at The Leys. The programme comprised a full morning of 20 talks for our Lower Sixth as well as the chance to meet with more than 40 exhibitors in Great Hall covering a wide range of career options. The event was really well attended, and our thanks go to the many organisations, professional bodies and individuals who gave up their time to contribute.

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



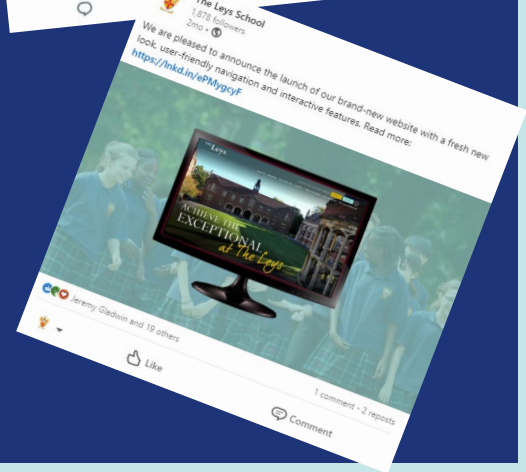
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@LeysCambridge



The Leys School



COMMUNITY LIFE

Giving Day

On Friday 24 March we held our second Giving Day in support of our fully-funded bursary programme, The Gift of Education. Last year's Giving Day raised £27,300 and this year we are hoping to raise £40,000 to support a young person gain access to the education they deserve. Every gift will be matched pound for pound up to £40,000 – which is another fully-funded place in the Sixth Form. To find out more, see the running total and to make a gift please visit leysgives.theleys.net.



Parents' Wine Tasting

On Thursday 2 March The Leys Development Office and The Leys Connection held the second wine tasting event for parents, in support of The Community Fund.

Jamie, from NY Wines in Cambridge, introduced something completely different - wines from little known or re-emerging regions. Guests enjoyed eight wines and participated in a wine-themed quiz. The Headmaster's table were victorious on the evening, but we are assured there was no favouritism involved!

The wine was available to purchase, and Jamie kindly donated 10% of the sales back to the School. This, along with the ticket sales meant that more than £1,400 was raised. When added to the funds raised from The Leys Connection quiz night held in November, parents' events this academic year have so far raised in excess of £2,400 for The Community Fund.

Many thanks to all parents for your support.



What's On?



End of Year Concert

Friday 28 April, 7.00pm

Saffron Hall

www.saffronhall.com/whats-on



'Moliere Mess'

Year 9 Play

Wednesday 17 May, 7.15pm

Thursday 18 May, 7.15pm

Great Hall



'The Lion King Jr.'

Year 7 and 8 Musical

Friday 23 June, 7.00pm

Saturday 24 June, 3.00pm

Great Hall



Summer Cabaret

Drama | Music | Dance

Wednesday 28 June, 7.30pm

Thursday 29 June, 7.30pm

Great Hall



Tickets for all events in Great Hall can be booked at [here](#).

The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD

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

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