



LeysLife

Issue 12 - Summer Term 2023



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.

This year our English Department launched the Minerva Prize, a new essay writing competition open to pupils in Year 11 and above. The standard of essay writing was very high and the process will stand applicants in good stead when applying to more competitive universities. Next year's competition has already been announced and for those interested in taking part, I would recommend giving this some thought over the summer break.

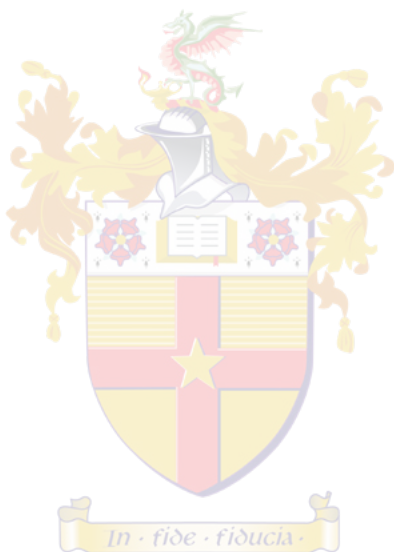
Following the success of last year's Greenpower electric car project, pupils from across the school have been working on improving the performance of the vehicle, redesigning more than 50% of components to make it lighter and more aerodynamic. This year they returned to the Lotus test track and recorded a one-lap improvement over last year. An excellent achievement and testament to the work put into the project by all involved.

There have been a number of initiatives this year focussing on environmental responsibility. One such initiative which I very much support is the decision no longer to provide single-use water bottles for school trips and at fixtures. Instead, we are encouraging pupils to fill their own bottles at one of several newly installed water fountains. This initiative was led by the pupils in the Sustainability Society and I commend them for their dedication to see this through.

Outside of school, I was delighted to hear that Noah T has signed his first professional contract for Essex County Cricket Club. This is richly deserved and I look forward to watching him progress in his career. There have also been some notable successes from Leysian musicians: Oscar S has been awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Music Junior Department to study trombone, and Theo G has secured a place on the coveted National Youth Jazz Collective Summer School.

Looking ahead to next term, following the success of Sir Stephen Hough's piano recital, we are thrilled to be welcoming pianist, Benjamin Grosvenor, and violinist, Hyeyoon Park, to The Leys in November. This will offer another amazing opportunity for pupils to experience another professional recital from musicians at the top of their game.

Enjoy this edition of Leys Life, and have a great summer.



SCHOOL LIFE



Minerva Prize

In a prizegiving ceremony held on Thursday 11 May, the first Minerva Prize was awarded to Year 13 pupil Ben TB. Year 12 pupil Josh W took second place and Jess N, also in Year 12, finished in third. The competition invited pupils to submit essays on a topic of their choosing to be judged by Fellow at Clare College, Ian Burrows.

Ben's winning essay focussed on Emile Zola's novel *La Bête Humaine* looking at its critique of the Second French Empire. Josh investigated George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and its exploration of power, and Jess looked at how Madeline Miller's *Circle* presents the patriarchal attitudes of Ancient Greece. Our guest judge commented on how the essays demonstrated the type of independent study he would hope to see

in undergraduate pupils. Named after the Roman Goddess of Wisdom, and sponsor of the Arts, medicine and Crafts, this prize offers an exciting opportunity to celebrate and explore the links between various disciplines and areas of study.

Aimed at Leysian pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13, entrants were invited to submit a 2,000 word essay on a title of their choosing. Entry was open to all pupils, but those hoping to apply for the more competitive universities were encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to show research, analytical skills and the ability to make connections between academic subjects and how they are interrogated in works of literature – novels, drama or poetry.

The trophy, created by our DT Department, and prize money donated by an Old Leysian were handed out at the School prize giving at the end of the Summer Term.

Putting a Lid on Plastic Waste

In a significant move towards environmental responsibility, The Leys is proud to announce its latest initiative, aimed at reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainability. Effective from the start of the Summer Term, the school will no longer distribute single-use water bottles on school trips and at sports fixtures. Instead, pupils are encouraged to fill up their own reusable bottles at any of the seven newly-installed water fountains. This is expected to prevent the consumption of more than 10,000 plastic bottles annually, furthering the school's commitment to eco-conscious practices.



Driven by the passionate efforts of the pupil-led Sustainability Society, this initiative is part of a broader endeavour to enhance sustainability at The Leys. Recently, the society has also been actively exploring sustainable practices in the fashion industry and has successfully organised clothing swaps, allowing pupils to donate unwanted garments and acquire new ones in exchange. The Sustainability Society is commended for spearheading this campaign and for continually raising awareness and emphasising the significance of sustainable action throughout the entire school community.

Headmaster, Martin Priestley, commented: "As a country, we use and dispose of 7.7 billion plastic bottles each year. By no longer supplying single use water bottles to pupils, we can make a small step in helping to reduce this number."

The Leys has recently joined the 'Let's Go Zero' campaign, a nationwide movement that includes more than 2000 schools. By taking part in this initiative, schools must pledge to achieve Zero Carbon emissions by 2030.

The school remains dedicated to cultivating environmentally conscious pupils and is continually seeking new avenues to drive positive change in the local and global community.

SCHOOL LIFE

Tife Wins Young Financial Journalist Competition

Year 10 pupil Tife Y has won The London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF) and the Financial Times (FT) Young Financial Journalist competition in the 14-15 age group category. Judges commended her essay commenting that her submission contained “strong arguments, punchy prose, excellent data and notes.”

The competition is open to pupils aged 14 to 19 and invites them to submit articles on set questions. This year’s topics included financial tactics to cope with the cost of living, what young people can do to avoid falling victim to scams, and how financial institutions help to tackle climate change.

Tife chose the topic of a cashless society and said: “I’m really pleased that I entered the competition. The topic posed an interest to me and I wanted to learn more about where society was moving ahead and whether a cashless society is something that will happen, so I thought it would be a fun thing to research.”

This year, the panel of judges included: Money and Wealth Editor at the FT, Stefan Wagstyl, Maths teacher, author and broadcaster, Bobby Seagull, and Managing Director of Financial Education and Community Outreach at LIBF, Catherine Winter, who comments: “This year the standard for the competition was incredibly high. There were so many great articles that stood out, which made it very interesting and fulfilling to judge.

“It’s always interesting to hear about young people’s thoughts on money. Reading these articles, it is evident that so many young people are passionate about finance and the future of the industry.”

Tife’s entry will now be published on the Insights section of the LIBF website and may also be included in a feature on the FT website and/or in FT Money. She also receives a £150 cash prize.



SCHOOL LIFE



Coronation Weekend

On 6 May, Houses came together to watch the Coronation. They marked the occasion with special breakfasts, tea parties and decorations. A wonderful way to celebrate a moment in history together. Pupils and staff wish Their Majesties, King Charles III and Queen Camilla, every happiness.



School Council

On 25 May our newly-formed School Council met for the second time to discuss matters concerning pupils with Senior Management. This is a great opportunity for House representatives from across the school to voice their opinions, and a chance for pupils from all year groups to gain leadership experience.



Extended Project Qualification

We were delighted to welcome staff, parents and pupils to Great Hall on Wednesday 21 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 business plan, an investigation into the ethics around human genome editing, and an exploration of children's literature which included a written and illustrated children's book. All projects were presented on display boards along with other visual aids such as slides and video content.



SCHOOL LIFE

Prefects for 2023-24 Announced

Congratulations to our newly appointed Prefects for 2023-24 who were announced in an assembly on Monday 19 June by Headmaster, Mr Priestley. A special mention goes to our new Senior Prefects, Lucy P and Guy A, who will be leading the team throughout the next academic year. We hope they thrive in their new roles and wish them all the best.



Senior Prefects: Lucy P and Guy A

Academic Prefect: Josh W

Chapel Prefect: Charlotte T

Community Prefect: Will S

Culture Prefect: Jacob C

Moulton Prefects: Lilly C and Carla C

Sport Prefect: Oliver H

Wellbeing Prefect: Hazel C

Head of Barker: Reuben M

Deputy Head of Barker: George G

Head of Barrett: Miles K

Deputy Head of Barrett: Tom B

Head of Bisseker: Harry L

Deputy Head of Bisseker: Georgia W-J

Head of Dale: Iso B

Deputy Head of Dale: Naia D

Head of East: Charles C

Deputy Head of East: Samvel A

Head of Fen: Chloe T

Deputy Head of Fen: Emma H

Head of Granta: Isabelle M-P

Deputy Head of Granta: Amelia C

Head of North A: Zack E

Deputy Head of North A: Sam H

Head of School: Edward S

Deputy Head of School: Ryan C

Head of West: Jack W

Deputy Head of West: John S



SCHOOL LIFE

Visit to St Faith's

On Tuesday 20 June, eight pupils from our Lower Sixth visited St Faith's to speak with their Year 8s about moving on to Senior School. Many are former St Faith's pupils, so it was a pleasure for teachers there to see them return to speak to the next generation. We look forward to welcoming them to The Leys in September.



Science Department Guest Speakers

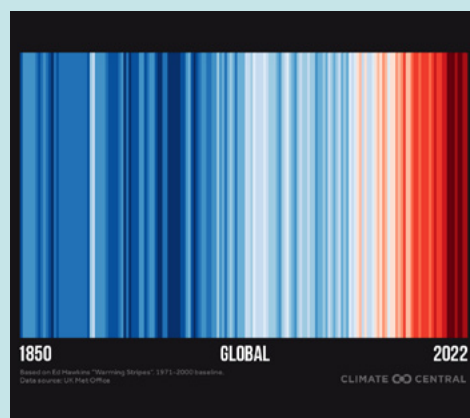
Our Science Department have been pleased to welcome a number of guest speakers from the University of Cambridge during the term. On 15 June, Engineers Without Borders visited a Year 8 class to give a talk on the different fields of Engineering and its applications in 'real life'. The class were thoroughly engaged throughout and very much enjoyed the talk, answering many questions as well as taking part in a quiz.



On 20 June Professor Eugene Shwageraus spoke to our Lower Sixth about Nuclear Energy. Eugene uncovered the many myths surrounding nuclear energy, as well as addressing the reality and necessity of it. It was a lively and interactive session, and a very interesting insight into this fascinating topic.

Show Your Stripes!

To mark #ShowYourStripes day, Mr Fernandez's Year 9 class helped to display a graphic of the iconic 'warming stripes' in the Biology corridor. They have also been creating their own short films to raise awareness about climate change using this graphic which shows the global temperature trends over the last 100+ years.



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

RYA Dinghy Instructor Course

Lower Sixth pupils Charlotte T and George M have recently passed the RYA Dinghy Instructor course following a week of training in challenging conditions. The training covered course preparation and delivery, as well as the skills needed to be a successful instructor such as effective communication and teaching methods. Congratulations to them both.



CCF Annual Dinner

On 11 May our CCF enjoyed their annual dinner. The evening started with a drinks reception in the Upper Common Room. A few of our musicians played some fabulous Jazz to accompany the start of the evening, before members went to take their seats for dinner. The night was a success and a wonderful way to end their year.



Community Outreach

It's always wonderful to hear positive feedback from the community outreach work our pupils undertake throughout the year. Justin G, Archie H, Oli C, Ruben M and Will D have all been volunteering with CUFC since September, working with young people on their Premier League Kicks sessions.

Their supervisors said: "Your students have been delightful. They have engaged in a great spirit, ensuring that all participants are included with in the session. They act as role models for our younger participants displaying an excellent attitude towards the sessions."



Greenpower Car

On Sunday 25 June, 12 pupils from across the school competed in the Greenpower Trust regional heats race day at the Lotus Hethel test track in Norfolk in an electric car they designed and built themselves.

This is only the second time The Leys has taken part, and the team improved on last year's performance in relative terms by one lap (2.2 miles). This is an excellent achievement and is a culmination of a whole year's work. We look forward to seeing how further modifications can improve the car for next year.



TRIPS

Lower Sixth in the Lake District

Our Lower Sixth Geographers started this term with a trip to the Lake District, investigating water and carbon cycles. They had some fantastic views from the area around Easedale Tarn, just outside Grasmere.



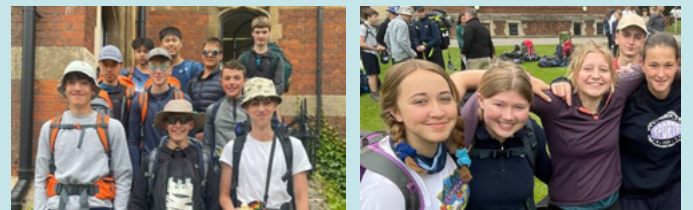
Year 10 Geography Field Work

On 17 May Year 10 Geographers completed their first day of fieldwork, investigating the impact of regeneration in four areas surrounding The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.



Year 10 Silver DofE practice expedition

On 7 June pupils in Year 10 travelled to the Peak District for their Silver DofE practice expedition. They had a great experience working on their navigation, packing, cooking, camping and walking!



Trip to Nice

On 30 May pupils and staff went to Nice, France. They went to the city on a walking tour of Vieux Nice, seeing Le Promenade des Anglais, the Cathedral and a speciality sweet shop. The following day they enjoyed morning lessons and a trip to Villefranche.



The British Museum

On May 23, a group of Year 10 and Lower Sixth pupils visited the British Museum to see the *Greece and Persia: Luxury and Power* exhibition. The trip will really help with topics in GCSE Ancient History and A Level Classical Greek, and they all had a great day out.

TRIPS



We Will Rock You

On Wednesday 15 June, Year 10 and Lower Sixth academic musicians enjoyed a performance of *We Will Rock You* at the London Coliseum. It was wonderful to see such iconic music being played in an incredible venue. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Harry Potter Studios

On 14 May boarders from across the school visited the Harry Potter Studio Tour. Always a popular trip for staff and pupils alike!



Battlestations

On Wednesday 24 May, 87 Year 10 Cadets travelled to the Battlestations activity centre at Snetterton. They took part in a range of team-based activities including laser-tag, Medieval-mele and mine clearance. As well as having a lot of fun, the pupils were able to develop their ability to work with others and improve their problem-solving skills.



Year 9 DofE Bronze Expedition

On Thursday 15 June, pupils in Year 9 set off to the New Forest yesterday for their Bronze DofE expedition. They were able to embrace the wonderful weather with cooking outdoors, and learning about navigation.



SPORT

MCC Cricket

It was an honour to host MCC for a day of cricket on the main square on 21 June. There were some great performances from the Boys' 1st XI in the afternoon and from the Girls' 1st XI who hosted an Issy Routledge Invitational XI in the evening.



House Athletics

There was a great atmosphere at the Wilberforce Road Athletics Track on Tuesday 13 June as pupils from Years 7-10 competed in this year's House Athletics competition. Despite the hot weather, there were some very strong performances and a number of school records were broken. Well done to:

BOYS

Arthur P - High Jump (Year 7-9) - 1.55m
 Jeremy P - 800m (Year 10) - 2min 20sec
 Nile M - Shot Putt (Year 10) - 12.3m
 Oliver E - High Jump (Year 10) - 1.56m
 Wilkie N - 200m (Year 7-9) - 25.22sec
 Wilkie N - Triple Jump (Year 7-9) - 11.31m

GIRLS

Issy F - High Jump (Year 7-9) - 1.3m
 Miu Miu Y - Triple Jump (Year 7-9) - 8.80m
 Phoebe W - Javelin (Year 7-9) - 25.20m



SPORT

Making History

Thanks to the work of our Archivist, we have been informed that JCM Howland and STJ Howland are the first set of brothers to play all three, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket, 1st Team sports in the same academic year for an incredible 141 years!



Inaugural Leys Year 9 Girls Cricket Tournament

In June The Leys hosted the inaugural Year 9 Girls Cricket Tournament. With games against Halleybury and Felsted, the tournament came to an end with Epsom beating The Leys in a closely fought final. All the girls played brilliantly, with Issy F receiving the bowler of the tournament award.



Year 9 Boys Cricket Festival

On 20 June, the Year 9 Boys headed to Epsom for the Year 9 Boys Cricket Festival. They played some fabulous games, winning the morning match on the 21 June by 49 runs, and beat Ipswich in the afternoon match by 7 wickets. Well done boys!



Noah T Signs Contract with Essex

Well done to Year 13 pupil Noah T who has signed a rookie summer contract with Essex County Cricket Club.

Noah has been part of the Essex Academy since 2021 and is an all-rounder, who opens both the batting and bowling for the current U18s side. He enjoyed a memorable 2022 season scoring over 850 runs at an average of 77, which included a memorable 293 runs in an Essex U18s match against Kent at Garon Park. This achievement was part of rich vein of form, which saw him reach the century mark in four consecutive games for the county.

As well as playing for The Leys 1st XI, he plays his club cricket for Sawston & Babraham Cricket Club in Cambridgeshire, who were crowned as the East Anglian Premier Cricket League Champions last year. The 2022 Academy Player of the Year will wear the number 8 shirt for the Club and will be available for selection against Ireland this week.

On signing his contract, Noah said: "I'm delighted to sign a rookie summer contract with Essex in the next step of my career development. After becoming an established member of the Academy, I have enjoyed stepping up to Second XI cricket after making my debut two seasons ago. Signing a rookie deal is a really special moment and I'm really looking forward to the season ahead and taking my opportunities."



MUSIC

Saffron Hall End of Year Concert

A successful End of Year Concert was held at Saffron Hall on the evening of Friday 28 April involving 92 pupils from across the school. Highlights included an incredible performance of Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A Minor* featuring Sharon D as the soloist, and *Mambo* from *West Side Story* – a collaboration between Big Noise, the Orchestra and Wind Band. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part and thank you to our wonderful Music Department who made it all possible.



NYJC Summer School for Theo

Well done to Year 11 pupil Theo G who has secured a place on the National Youth Jazz Collective Summer School following his audition at Easter. A very impressive achievement!



James receives Distinction

Well done to Year 13 pupil James M, who not only passed his ABRSM Diploma on the Alto Sax with a Distinction, the highest possible grade, but also did the same on his Grade 8 Piano exam. A truly impressive achievement. James will be studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Southampton from September, but says he will always continue to play and enjoy music.



Oscar Gains Scholarship to RCMJD

Year 11 pupil, Oscar S, has been offered a place on the prestigious Royal College of Music (RCM) Junior Department to play tenor and bass trombone. The offer also includes a scholarship for bass trombone, which means that these lessons will be provided free of charge.

The offer was made after a successful audition in March. Oscar will study with Ruth Molins and Richard Ward, playing bass trombone in their Symphony Orchestra, and tenor trombone in a brass quintet and/or dectet. He was also offered places at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the Royal Academy of Music, but decided that the RCM was the best fit.



Head of Junior Programmes at the RCM, Miranda Francis, commented: "Oscar is a naturally talented player whose playing shows enormous potential. He makes a wonderful sound and is clearly a versatile musician. The ability to play both tenor and bass trombone in the profession is considered something of a superpower, so Oscar will be well placed to take music forward if he wants to.

"It gives me very great pleasure to offer Oscar a place at the Royal College of Music from September and look forward to working with him at the RCMJD."

Director of Music at The Leys, Max Kenworthy, added: "This is tremendous news and a fantastic opportunity for Oscar! He clearly played well and impressed them, so this is very much deserved after his hard work."

DRAMA

Molière Mess

On 17 May the Year 9 cast of *Molière Mess* took to the stage for their two-night run. Both nights were a huge success and the cast had the audience laughing along with the fantastically funny compilation of three 17th-century Molière comedies which included stories of assumptions, duplicity and mistaken identity in the finest traditions of classic farce. Well done to all involved.



The Lion King

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 performed 'The Lion King Jr' on 23-24 June in two sell-out shows. There were some outstanding performances from some of our youngest pupils, and the costumes, masks and scenery were all fantastic.



Cabaret

On 28-29 June performers took to the stage for a two-night run of our annual Summer Cabaret. This popular event included drama, music, dance and comedy, and all the performances were thoroughly enjoyed by an audience of staff, pupils and parents. A perfect way to celebrate the end of the academic year.



CAREERS

Legal Skills Workshop

On 21 April we ran a Legal Skills workshop, run in partnership with Tees Law, to provide a useful insight into legal careers and life as a solicitor and barrister. More than 40 Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils attended from The Leys as well as from other schools and colleges across Cambridgeshire. Pupils had the opportunity to discuss a range of legal dilemmas and issues faced in practice and learn about the different career routes into Law.



Lauren Ness

On 8 May our Lower Sixth pupils attended a very informative talk on higher education delivered by Lauren Ness, the Student Recruitment Officer for the University of Stirling. Lauren talked about the process of choosing and applying for university, answered questions about the UCAS process and provided an invaluable insight into studying in Scotland and, in particular, life as a student at the international campus University of Stirling.

Medical Ethics Workshop

On 28 April more than 60 Lower Sixth and Year 11 pupils attended a Medical Ethics workshop, representing a wide range of Cambridgeshire schools and colleges.

The workshop was ably led by our guest speaker, Dr Zoe Fritz, Consultant Physician and Wellcome Fellow in Society and Ethics, University of Cambridge, with the support of a team of volunteer medical students and doctors who facilitated the group case studies. Pupils took part in group discussions, debating real medical ethical dilemmas and issues faced in practice, which led to some lively discussions. A wide range of topics were covered during the afternoon including whether assisted suicide should be made legal, if doctors should have to be vaccinated against Covid 19 and whether it is ethical to give patients who are responsible for their health condition a lower priority for treatment.



Lower Sixth Skills Workshop

In June pupils in our Lower Sixth took part in a series of workshops designed to prepare them for later life. Sessions included cooking, self-defence, driver awareness and UCAS, as well as working on business pitches. Huge thanks to Walé Yusuff of Same Academy and Major Ollie Braithwaite from Absolute Defence for their support and expertise.



Tom Ford

We were delighted to welcome former Leys chef, Tom Ford, back into school on Wednesday 14 June. Tom, who is now Performance Chef at Leicester City Football Club, was on hand to lead a very enjoyable cooking session for our Lower Sixth looking at the food preparations skills required to gut, scale and bone a seabass as well as prepare a delicious meal to go alongside it.

LEAVERS

Leavers 2023

This term, our Upper Sixth have been enjoying Leavers' Dinners with their Houses to celebrate their time here at The Leys. They have been a wonderful year group, and we wish them every success as they leave us and move onto the next chapter.



Follow Us

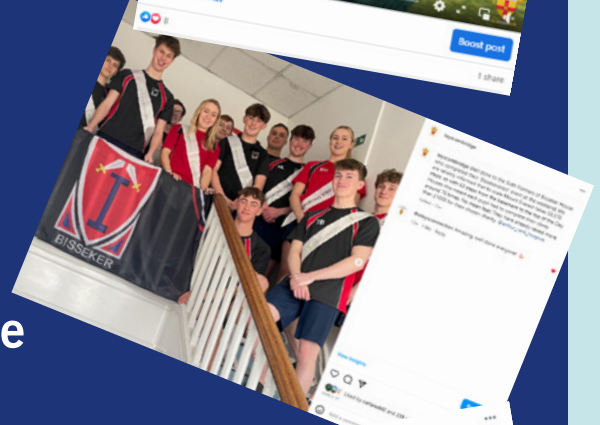
We are active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, and aim to post content about daily life at The Leys several times each week during term time. To receive our news stories in a timely way, and to be part of the conversation, please like our pages and follow our story using the links below.



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The Leys School



COMMUNITY LIFE

Giving Day 2023

On 24 March, our second Leys Giving Day raised more than £30,000 for the Gift of Education 110% bursary programme and the Community Fund. The theme, 'Do all the good you can', recalled John Wesley's famous motto well known to Leysians of all generations. We had fun making videos and messages from staff, pupils and OLs reinforcing the strong bond within our Leysian Community. Those following Giving Day on Facebook will have seen The Leys bobble hat circling the globe, travelling from Australia via East Asia and Europe to Canada by the end of the day.

Giving Day is a celebration of what makes the School so special - from the pupils and staff participating in home clothes day in support of House charities, to The Leys Connection who kindly arranged for a Giving Day pick-up tea. We are grateful to everyone who made a contribution to its success, but our particular thanks go to the donors who supported us with generous match funding for our first time donor and overseas donor challenges.

Giving Day will take a break in 2024, but will be back again bigger and better in 2025 to celebrate our 150th Anniversary.



Over £30k raised



£3,270 for the
Community Fund



70 donors

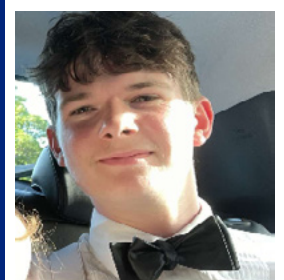
Telephone Campaign 2023

This year's campaign will run between 30 June and 8 July, with our fantastic team of callers picking up the phones to talk with members of the Leysian Community across the world, sharing School news and providing an update on the Gift of Education programme. Our eager team of current pupils and recent leavers welcome the opportunity to talk about The Leys with current parents, Old Leysians and other supporters of the School, sharing stories and experiences. [Click here](#) to find out a little bit about each of our callers – Charlie, Dominic, Rosie and Ollie – as they embark on their exciting career paths.

We would like to thank everyone who has agreed to take a call for their time and continued support of our School and its fundraising initiatives.



TELEPHONE
CAMPAIGN
at The Leys



What's On?

Moulton Concert

Friday 13 October, 6.45pm

Great Hall



Piano & Violin Concert

Benjamin Grosvenor & Hyeyoon Park

Thursday 2 November, 7.30pm

Great Hall



Autumn Concert

Friday 24 November, 7.30pm

Great Hall



Senior Musical 'Oliver!'

Thursday 7 December, 7.15pm

Friday 8 December, 7.15pm

Saturday 9 December, 7.15pm

Great Hall

Based on Charles Dickens' famous novel, 'Oliver Twist', this much-loved musical comes to the stage at The Leys and is sure to be a sell-out hit!



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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