



LeysLife

Issue 13 - Autumn Term 2023



A Message from the Acting Head

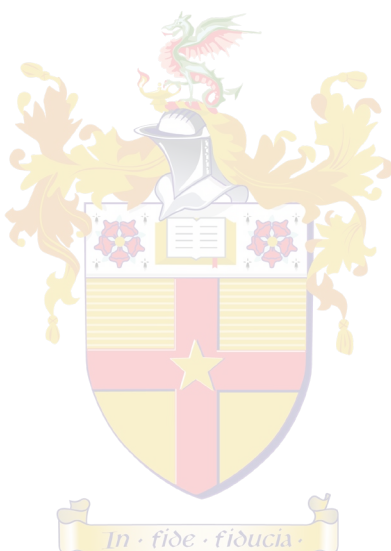
It is always a challenge trying to convey the incredible achievements of pupils in so many areas of school life over what has been a long and busy term. In weekly assemblies, we celebrate the successes of the pupil body but there are so many Leysians who excel, it is difficult to do justice to all the areas they are involved in. There are many highlights: for those of you who saw the recent production of *Oliver!* this surely shows how dedication and commitment from cast and crew leads to excellence, well above the standard anyone would expect from a school production. Of course, as well as drama, there have been a huge number of other performances too – fantastic singing by the Chapel and Chamber Choirs, the Concerto Competition and end of term Concert to name but a few musical events. There are also the weekly fixtures and sporting achievements too – and we look forward to hearing about the future progress of the U15s as they enter the last sixteen of the National Vase Competition in 2024.

Debating has been flourishing too, with debates taking place throughout the term on Thursdays at lunchtime where we often have over a hundred pupils attending. A number of our senior pupils have competed at regional Rotary debates where they have excelled. We have also been fortunate to hear from a number of high-profile guest speakers such as Jo Browning Wroe, a local author who gave a fascinating talk on her debut novel 'A Terrible Kindness'. The Year 9 pupils also enjoyed Curiosity Week where they attended a number of events, such as a lecture titled *AI: Friend or Foe?* Pupils have also enjoyed some fascinating careers talks and some attended a surgical skills workshop in early November.

It has been wonderful to see Leysians achieving individual success in a variety of fields this term. Two of our pupils have been awarded coveted Arkwright Scholarships, one has been selected for the Saracens Mavericks U17 netball squad, and another has been awarded a prestigious Army Officer Scholarship. In many other academic competitions and Olympiads, pupils show they can compete with the best and I am looking forward to giving out yet more certificates in our final end of term assembly.

Our connections with the local community continue to go from strength to strength with a varied programme of outreach activities. Our relationship with Great Abington Primary School, in particular, is thriving with both staff and pupils visiting several times during the term to lead activities including drama workshops, gardening clubs and sporting events. This is a wonderful way to support our wider community whilst also offering opportunities to our pupils for personal development.

As you are aware, we also received the fantastic news that The Leys has been named as East Anglia's Independent School of the Year for 2024 by The Sunday Times. This public recognition of all that goes on here every day would not be possible without the hard work of colleagues, not to mention the commitment of pupils and the wider school community. I am incredibly proud of what the school has achieved and it is wonderful to have this recognised: we hope this issue of Leys Life gives a sense of why The Leys is a thriving community.



SCHOOL LIFE

The Leys is Named East Anglia's Independent School of the Year

The Leys has been named East Anglia's Independent School of the Year by The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2024.

The guide is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's top schools. As well as an assessment of all academic results on a school-by-school basis, Parent Power enables parents to compare the performance of a given school with other schools in the same town, local authority or nationally.

Helen Davies, Editor of Parent Power, said: "The educational landscape continues to be challenging across both the state and independent sectors, and this is the first true assessment of post-pandemic exam results. We believe these rankings – and all the additional information on offer in Parent Power – provide parents with a more reliable guide to academic achievement in schools today."

The fully searchable national database of over 1,000 schools by name, local authority, town and postcode, is available on The Sunday Times Parent Power 2024 website.



SCHOOL LIFE

Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Year 12 pupils, Hansel B and Tomas FB, have each been awarded a coveted Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

The Arkwright programme is administered by The Smallpiece 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 of 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 wish all our Scholars well as they continue their engineering journeys and future careers."

Hansel and Tomas join last year's Scholarship recipients Monti D, George M and Henrietta N now in the Upper Sixth.



Success for Mathematicians

In October, 87 pupils took part in this year's Senior Maths Challenge. Nine received the coveted Gold Award with a special mention going to Kyle Y in Year 12 for being named Best in School. In addition, four of our pupils were invited to sit the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls at the end of September and we were delighted to hear that Sharon D in Year 11 was awarded a Certificate of Distinction.

The Senior Maths Challenge is a prestigious competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust and requires pupils to complete a 90-minute multiple choice challenge. The aim is to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. This year at The Leys, as well as the nine pupils who were awarded the Gold award, 29 received Silver and a further 21 were awarded Bronze.

Ms Evans, Head of Maths, commented: "We were thrilled to have so many pupils take part this year in the Senior Maths Challenge and perform as well as they did. It is fantastic to have so many come away with the Gold Award, only being achieved by the top 8-9% of the entrants, and it is particularly impressive that four of them are pupils in Year 11.

"Well done also to Sharon D whose achievement in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls places her in approximately the top 5% of candidates, a huge achievement since this competition is aimed at Sixth Formers. Sharon consistently shows her commitment to the subject and impresses us with her enthusiasm to get involved with every extension opportunity. This result was very well deserved."

SCHOOL LIFE

Military Success for Harry

Over the summer break, Year 13 pupil Harry CB received the news that he has been awarded a prestigious Army Officer Scholarship from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This will provide financial support for the completion of his A Level and university studies, and a guaranteed place for Army Officer Training upon the completion of his degree.

As part of the application process, Harry successfully completed multiple stages of assessment before being invited to complete the Army Office Selection Board in Westbury in July, where he spent three days completing interviews, essays, command tasks, psychometric tests, planning exercises, and a variety of fitness tests and group tasks.

Each year only around 50 pupils on average are awarded scholarships across the UK, making this achievement all the more impressive.

Harry commented: "It feels amazing to be offered such a brilliant opportunity and I'm really excited about the prospect of a career in the Army. I'm looking forward to the active lifestyle it will bring and having the opportunity to travel whilst leading a team.

"After my A Levels I'm hoping to study Politics and International Relations at university before heading to Sandhurst. Having the security of a place at the Academy will really allow me to focus on my studies without worrying about the future."



The Leys Triumphs at Rotary Peace Debates

On the evening of Monday 2 October, a three-person team from The Leys emerged victorious in the Rotary Peace Debates held in our Great Hall. Isabelle M-P, Rose G and Emily H delivered an outstanding performance proposing the motion: This house believes that the search for absolute power by an individual, rather than inequality in the distribution of resources, will lead to the next world war.

The Rotary Club Peace Debates is an annual competition organised by Rotary Clubs worldwide. The primary objective of these debates is to promote dialogue, critical thinking, and awareness about peace and conflict resolution among young individuals. The theme of this year's competition was 'Peace – one day?' and our local competition was organised by the Rotary Club of Cambridge South.

The Leys were up against King's Ely for their individual debate, but the whole competition involved six local schools. We beat fierce competition from strong teams representing The Perse, The Stephen Perse, Kings Ely, Chesterton Sixth Form and Impington International School.

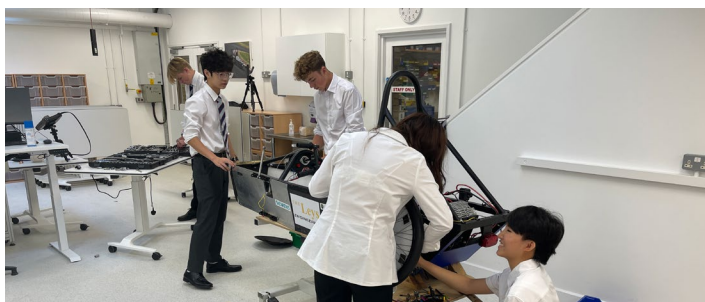
Head of English, Mrs Divito, commented: "They spoke with clarity, demonstrated an excellent understanding of the motion and their teamwork was commendable. I greatly enjoyed working with them during the past two weeks, and my thanks also go to Mr Francis who assisted them with their initial research. They should be very proud of their accomplishments."

Rutherford Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

Well done to Eni D, Georgia E and Emma H, who competed in the Rutherford Rotary Youth Speaks Competition in November. They spoke on the motion 'THBT a university degree is far from universal' competing against four other teams from local schools. The judges commended them on 'owning the podium', their humour and their teamwork. The standard of all the debates was very high and the girls couldn't have done a better job.



SCHOOL LIFE



New DT Room

Over the summer an area in the DT Department was transformed into a new, modern lab space for our pupils. The room is flexible to accommodate different age groups and activities with new kit including 3D scanners, resin printers, and powered tables. Within the first few weeks our Lower Sixth used the space to create carbon composites for the Greenpower electric car, and our Year 8 pupils had an introductory session.



Sixth Form Leadership Day

Pupils in our Lower Sixth took a day off timetable to take part in a number of activities designed to test their teamwork and leadership skills. They built bridges over at Latham Road in teams, solved problems, and navigated through wooded areas whilst blindfolded. It was great to see them working together as a year group with new friendships blossoming.

Intermediate Biology Olympiad

Congratulations to Year 13 pupils Lizzie N and Fiona O on their recent success in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad. Fiona achieved a Silver Award, putting her in the top 15% of the 14,000 pupils who took part across the world, and Lizzie received a much-coveted Gold Award putting her in the top 5%! A truly fantastic achievement.



Dinner for Ollie Feast Volunteers

On 14 September, Headmaster Mr Priestley hosted a lunch for the pupils who volunteered on this summer's Ollie Feast Summer Camp. This year more than 40 pupils from local schools took part and our volunteers helped to lead activities such as team building, archery and climbing. The lunch offered the perfect opportunity to thank them for their brilliant contribution to this valued initiative.

Melbourne Drama

On 15 September we were delighted to host Wesley College Melbourne as they tour their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream around the UK. Our Year 9, 10 and 11 Drama pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and meeting their Australian counterparts. We look forward to developing a relationship with the Drama department at Wesley College and hopefully bringing some Leysian Drama 'Down Under.'



School House Cake Mornings

Throughout the Autumn Term pupils and staff in School House have been hosting weekly breacktime social events. Invites are sent out to selected members of staff from the wider school community, who are invited to try their House-Made cakes with Chinese or English tea. The mornings conclude with a raffle for the boys using tickets earned throughout the week. A really wonderful midweek treat for all.



SCHOOL LIFE



'Reading Out Loud'

On 14 October, seven pupils from Years 8-13 took part in the MFL 'Reading Out Loud' competition held at King's Ely. The competition offers the opportunity for pupils to present a poem or extract in either French or Spanish with a focus on the importance of pronunciation, articulation and delivery. Congratulations to Annabel L who won the Silver award for her reading of a poem by Mario Benedetti.

Sixth Form Ceilidh

On Saturday 4 November, 150 pupils in our Sixth Form enjoyed a wonderful evening which included a ceilidh dance in Great Hall with a live band, as well as a dinner in the dining hall. They all looked fantastic, and many thanks to the Sixth Form team for their organisation.



Surgical Skills Workshop

On Sunday 5 November, 66 pupils from across Cambridgeshire attended a Surgical Skills workshop at The Leys where they were treated to a series of hands-on workshops (including suturing, ultrasound, laparoscopy and interview practice) run by a team of clinical medical students from the Cambridge University Surgical Society. Professor Cecilia Brassett, the Teaching Professor of Human Anatomy and University of Cambridge Clinical Anatomist, and Miss Ekpemi Irune, Consultant ENT, Head & Neck and Thyroid Surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital, delivered the keynote speeches; both offering valuable insights into life as a surgeon as well as stressing the importance of work life balance, the need for courage and positive role models. The event proved to be inspiring for those interested in medicine and learning more about surgery as a career choice.



SCHOOL LIFE



Year 9 Curiosity Week

Congratulations to the Year 9 pupils who successfully completed Curiosity Week, arranged for them by Academic Prefect Josh W. In assembly on 24 November they broke into small groups to discuss the highlights of the week with prefects and teachers. During Curiosity Week, pupils were required to complete a range of activities to gain stamps, including attending academic talks, visiting museums and taking part in debating, and those who achieve four or more were presented with certificates.



Remembrance

For Remembrance this year we united to honour the sacrifice of Old Leysians and all members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. On Saturday morning at 11am, the whole school community gathered in the Upper Quad to observe the annual Act of Remembrance. On Sunday, we held a Service of Remembrance in our Chapel where wreaths were laid at the School's war memorial, which bears the names of the 149 Old Leysians who died in the First World War.



Movember

Throughout November, eight pupils in our Upper Sixth have been growing moustaches in order to raise money for the Movember charity. Together they have helped to raise awareness for men's cancer, mental health services and suicide prevention. Well done boys!



TRIPS



'Life of Pi'

On 21 September Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama pupils took a trip to see the Theatrical Adaptation of Yann Martel's 'Life of Pi' at the Milton Keynes Theatre. The production offered a wonderful example of design elements working alongside terrific acting and puppeteering to create a stunning performance.

Year 11 Geography Trip

On 25 September, our Year 11 Geographers travelled to Felixstowe to conduct fieldwork as part of their GCSE course. They were measuring the influence of groynes (structures built perpendicular to the shoreline designed to reduce longshore drift) on the beach, whilst also enjoying a day out at the seaside including fish and chips for lunch.



Year 8 Trip to Snowdonia

On 14 October our Year 8's set off to Snowdonia! They were fortunate to have superb conditions for the week long trip. While away they enjoyed hiking and gorge walking. Thank you to all staff and pupils for their enthusiasm and courage through all the activities.

Japanese Exchange

During the October half term break, six of our pupils had the incredible opportunity to travel to Japan as part of our annual exchange program with Aoyama Gakuin High School. Each pupil was paired with a host family, with whom they spent evenings and weekends. Throughout the week, they attended school in the mornings, actively participating in English lessons, and in the afternoons they explored Tokyo through various excursions. It is great to see our pupils fully immersed in a new culture and exposed to a plethora of new experiences, and we eagerly anticipate the arrival of Aoyama Gakuin pupils to The Leys in January.



TRIPS



Rebecca Premier

On Sunday 5 November, our Drama Scholars travelled to London to see the premiere of 'Rebecca', a musical adaptation of the 1938 novel of the same name by Daphne du Maurier. The trip was a huge success and our pupils have returned inspired!

Lecture at Cambridge University

On 14 November, 16 of our Sixth Form pupils attended a fascinating lecture on the origins of geopolitics and how small island states are proving pivotal in the influence of superpowers. This was run by the Cambridge and District Geographical Association and the lecture was given by Dr Liam Saddington from the Department of Geography at the University of Cambridge.



Year 8 Snowdonia Trip

SPORT



Rugby

This term the rugby teams have set a high bar with remarkable achievements from both the U16A and U15A sides, with only one loss this term. The 1st XV defeated Impington Village College and The Perse. Congratulations to the U15A rugby team as they secured a notable victory against The Perse in the final weeks of term. This win propels them into the last 16 of the National Vase competition, which takes place next term. An excellent conclusion to their term with a string of impressive results. Well done to Mr Clark and the boys on their success!

First place at the Cambridge Autumn Head

Congratulations to Sophia J, Hermione H, Ella T, Millie S and Sofi P, who finished in first place in the Women's Junior U17 Coxed Quad event at the Cambridge Autumn Head Race this weekend. Today, Director of Sport Carla Rudd, presented them with their medals and t-shirts. Well done girls!

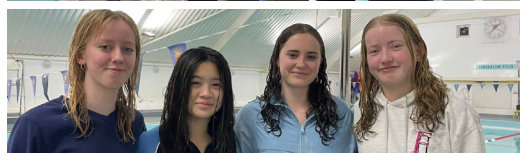


Christmas Rowing Head

The cold weather didn't stop our rowers enjoying the Cambridge Christmas Head in December. It was great to see so many getting into the festive spirit with some fabulous fancy dress!

Swimming

The swimming teams have enjoyed gala's vs Harrow, Oundle and Heritage. Rueben C's standout performance in the 50m breaststroke and the impressive display by the girls U18 4 x 50m freestyle relay team deserve special recognition, reflecting the team's commitment and hard work in training.



Netball

The U19's team have advanced to the Regional round next term and the U14's secured victories in all five matches during the County preliminary round. Well done girls!



Freya H gets selected to play for Saracens

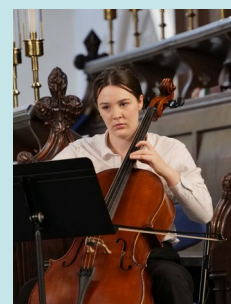
Congratulations to Year 12 pupil Freya H who has been selected as part of the Saracens Mavericks U17 netball squad for the 2023-24 season. Their first match is against Team Bath on 9 December. Well done also to Year 10 pupil Isy F, and Year 9 pupils Nancy F and Effie N have been selected for the Mavericks Pathway sides in their regions, and we look forward to seeing how they progress in the future.



MUSIC

Music Scholars Perform at Great St Mary's

On 14 October, an audience of pupils, staff, parents and the general public were treated to a concert given by some of our Music Scholars. Held at Great St Mary's in the centre of Cambridge, the programme was varied, including works by Rachmaninoff, Brahms and Purcell. Bravo to Elizabeth, Kaka, Fiona, Lily, Oscar, Sonia, Elspeth, Sharon, Anna and Lucas, who all performed brilliantly.



Head Choristers

Congratulations to Upper Sixth pupils Lizzie N and Raphi H who have been appointed as Head Choristers for the year. They led proceedings at the first school service yesterday and we wish them the best for the year ahead.



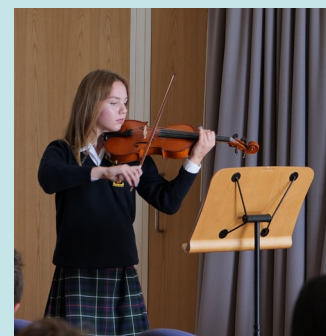
Live at Bally G's

Following the success of the 'Unplugged' concert in early September, some of the performers took to the stage on 27 September for the first 'Live At Bally G's' event of the term. This pupil-led event happens weekly during term time and provides a fantastic informal platform for our musicians.



Lunchtime Live

Well done to our Music Scholars in Years 9-11 who performed on 7 October at the first 'Lunchtime Live' of the term. The programme was varied including works by Albinoni, Chopin, Heiden and Kreisler, all being enjoyed by an audience of pupils and staff.



Benjamin Grosvenor and Hyeyoon Park Workshop

On 1 November Benjamin Grosvenor and Hyeyoon Park led a workshop for our most able musicians. It was a wonderful opportunity for those taking part to benefit from their guidance during the masterclass, as well as all those who were observing. Later that evening, pupils and staff, were fortunate enough to hear them play in a short concert at Great Hall.

MUSIC AND DRAMA



Autumn Concert

On 23 November pupils performed in our Autumn Concert in Great Hall. The concert featured pupils from across the school in a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles.

Oliver!

In December pupils took to the stage for a sold out three night run of 'Oliver!'. Lionel Bart's adaptation of Dickens' famous story follows Oliver Twist as he navigates life as an orphan in London in the Victorian era. It is wonderful to see pupils come together to tell such a well known story, with vibrant characters and great songs!



GUEST SPEAKERS



The term began with Sixth Form pupils hearing from Jim Robertson and Dave Keeling. Jim Robertson, an inspirational speaker, gave an energetic and interactive session where he expressed the importance of starting strong and self-discipline, emphasising that education is the key to unlocking a whole world of opportunities. Dave Keeling challenged pupils to think slow rather than fast, collaborate with their peers to share skills, show grit when things get hard, and focus on attitude and action.



In October we welcomed Matthew Lavender, Jo Browning Wroe, Caroline Feeley, Professor Robert Wardrop and Professor Hugh Hunt. Matthew Lavender, a former political adviser at Westminster, gave a riveting talk on Political Journalism and his work in politics, followed by a Q&A session. Jo Browning Wroe, joined us for an evening focussed on her debut novel, *A Terrible Kindness*. During the event she spoke with our Head of English, Mrs Divito, about her life and career in front of an audience of pupils, staff and the general public before rounding the evening off with a book signing.



Our Lower Sixth pupils enjoyed hearing from Caroline Feeley, Deputy Head of International Recruitment at the University of Liverpool. Caroline provided expertise on international student applications and writing an effective Personal Statement. Our Sixth Form pupils had the privilege of listening to Finance Professor Robert Wardrop, Founder and CEO of RegGenome. His talk explored the differences in central banking between the global south and developed economies. Hugh Hunt from the University of Cambridge spoke to our Year 11 pupils about Sustainability and Climate Change as part of their PSHE programme.



In November pupils heard from Georgia Adamson, James Morton and Mo Tanweer. OL Georgia Adamson spoke to pupils about her experience as a 3D character artist in the gaming industry. She is currently working on the video game *Fall Guys* with Epic Games, and is responsible for creating fun and quirky costumes, working with in-house designers, and helping brands to bring their IP to life within the game. James Morton, a Structural Design Engineer at Ramboll, talked to a group of pupils about careers in engineering, and Mo Tanweer gave a lecture titled: 'AI: Friend or Foe'. He explored the ways artificial intelligence is currently being used and how it might be used in the future.



OUTREACH

Having fun with Mr Shakespeare

This term, Mrs Pulman Jones (School Performance Director) and Tilda Shepherd (LVI pupil) visited Great Abington Primary School to deliver some drama workshops for their Year 6s which culminated in a stunning performance of Macbeth to the School and their parents. It was a wonderful way for this year group to be introduced to Macbeth; exploring plot, character and language through drama. Tilda: "I really enjoyed my time volunteering at Great Abington, it was great to see how the children grew in confidence and how much they enjoyed taking part in the workshops! Equally it was amazing to work with children with such enthusiasm." Year 6 Teacher, Mrs Barker: "Thank you for bringing out the best in my Year 6 children! As ever it was a fabulous performance in front of proud parents and their teacher! You certainly command the respect from the children and break down their self-conscious barriers and it's a great opportunity for me to understand potential talent for the end of term performance." We very much look forward to welcoming the Great Abington Year 6 pupils to The Leys when they visit to see our production of Oliver! at the end of term.



Sports Leaders

In September, Mr Elston's Year 11 Sports Leaders Group visited Great Abington Primary to deliver a "Capture the Flag" tournament for their Year 5 and 6 pupils. It was a wonderful occasion a really valuable opportunity for our pupils to develop their leadership skills.

"When we went to Great Abington Primary School, it was a great afternoon of capture the flag. We were all welcomed in a very friendly way, and I learnt so much about how to help coach a group of children, some of whom were much more competitive than others." Darcey Grigson (Year 11).



Gardening Club at Great Abington Primary

"During the first half of term, Mr Bray and a group of 8 pupils journeyed to Great Abington Primary school every Wednesday where we helped a group of children from Years 3 to 5. This included weeding, planting and watering their self-sustaining garden. Over the course of a few weeks we were able to make significant progress in developing the garden and helping them maintain it. This experience proved to be greatly beneficial helping with communication, teamwork and cultivating a love for nature. We are also looking forward to Lent term when we will be returning to Great Abington primary school to continue where we left off." James Rowland (Year 11).



Sustainability Project

"For the last four weeks of term, the Year 11 volunteering group undertook a Sustainability project for Books 2 Africa. It was a completely pupil-led project and it involved us planning the project, communicating with staff and Departments across the School, and then collecting and sorting the books so that they were ready for donation. We found the project to be very rewarding because it will support a well-deserved cause and it will help with the education of children abroad. We gained lots of experience from the project and it allowed us to develop various skills, including: teamwork, time management, leadership and project planning. We were delighted with the response and in total, we were able to donate 17 boxes of books to the charity." Amelia Waters (Year 11).



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.



@theleyschoolcambridge

The Leys School, Cambridge
19 October at 15:58 · 🌐
It is wonderful to see so many parents gathering at The Leys Connection 'Pick Up Tea' this afternoon as we reach the half term break. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents who give their time to support the school in this way. We wish all our teachers and pupils a well-deserved rest.



@leyscambridge



@LeysCambridge

The Leys @LeysCambridge · Oct 25
Over the half term break the Old Gym has become home to a fabulous display of work from The Cambridge Drawing Society. Running until 28 October, members of the public can pop in for free anytime between 10am and 4pm.



The Leys School

The Leys School
2,115 followers
2w · 🌐
The Development Office and Leys Connection organised Friday's Parents' Wine Tasting, hosted by current parent Camilla Shepherd of local wine retailer Private Cellar. The 'Call my bluff' tasting proved a resounding hit, and Private C...see more



COMMUNITY LIFE

Parent Wine Tasting

In October the Development team and The Leys Connection joined forces for another successful Parent Wine Tasting event in Great Hall, hosted by current parent Camilla Shepherd of local wine merchant Private Cellar. The 'call my bluff' tasting made for a highly entertaining as well as informative evening, with sixth form pupils Hugo E, Cosmo B, Harry W, Sam M and Ryan C ably assisting in pouring the delicious wines being showcased. Private Cellar generously donated 10% of profits from sales to the Community Fund.



The Leys Carol Service

On 1 December The Leys Chapel Choir travelled to Wesley's Chapel for the annual London Leys Carol Service, facilitated by the Development team. The Leys Chapel Choir, directed by Max Kenworthy, led the carols and treated the congregation to rousing descants and exquisite anthems. Our readers included representatives from the parent, pupil, staff, governor and Old Leysian communities. It was wonderful to welcome so many Old Leysians of all ages to the chapel, and to catch up with them over refreshments in the adjoining hall after the service. Particular thanks are due to senior prefects Lucy P and Guy A, and chapel prefect Charlotte T, for welcoming guests on arrival.

Anna Fourie neé Michel

We were delighted to welcome Anna Fourie nee Michel (Granta, 1987-89) to The Leys, to give a careers talk to sixth form pupils. Now based in Portugal, Anna worked with Microsoft for over 12 years, rising to EMEA Talent Sourcing Senior Manager, and her specialisms include careers mentoring, talent acquisition, leadership and program design. Pupils were extremely engaged in the presentation, following up with plenty of insightful questions. The Old Leysian Society were fortunate enough to welcome Anna to Newnham College the following evening as their guest speaker at the OLs annual dinner.



Mount Kilimanjaro

Over the summer, Old Leysians Jake Long, Ollie Turner and Louis Harhalakis successfully climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in memory of Jake's late Mum, Katy, who passed away from a brain tumour last July. The trio have already raised more than £15,000 for Toms Trust, a charity set up by a St Faiths parent in aid of children suffering from brain tumours. What a fantastic achievement!

New Director of Development

The Development team are thrilled to be joined by their new Director of Development, Sarah Proud, in mid-November. Sarah joined from conservation charity BirdLife International, and has an independent school background as an Old Stamfordian. She specialises in working with supporters who want to make a transformational impact in the world in line with their values. If you would like to know more about The Leys' development work, please do email Sarah slp@theleys.net.

What's On?

Drama Scholars Showcase
Tuesday 23 January 7.15pm
Great Hall

Symphonia Showcase Concert
Friday 2 February 7.30pm
Recital Hall

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Wednesday 14 February 7.15pm
Thursday 15 February 7.15pm
Great Hall

Music Scholars' Concert
Monday 26 February 7pm
Recital Hall/Great Hall TBC

Choral Society Concert
Saturday 16 March 7.30pm
Chapel

The Leys Dance Show
Wednesday 20 March
Great Hall



Tickets for all events in Great Hall can be booked at [here](https://www.theleys.net/boxoffice).

The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD

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

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