



# LeysLife



## A Warm Welcome from Clare Ives

As this purposeful first term draws to a close, I want to pause and reflect on the start of this new chapter for The Leys. It has been an honour to join such a remarkable community as its eleventh Head, and I am deeply grateful for the warmth shown by pupils, staff, parents, Governors and OLs.

The Leys is a school with a proud heritage and a strong sense of identity, and stepping into this role during our sesquicentenary year has been a privilege. Over the term, I have listened, learned, and immersed myself in as many different aspects of school life as possible - from lessons and assemblies to House events, sports fixtures and concerts. What stands out most is the genuine care and commitment that define our community, and the pride our pupils take in being Leysians.

I also want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of my predecessor, Mr Martin Priestley. His service has helped shape The Leys into the thriving, compassionate community we know today, and I am grateful for the thoughtful handover and the strong foundations he leaves behind.

Looking ahead, my focus is on building upon those foundations. I am committed to creating an environment where every pupil feels known, supported, and inspired to be their best self. Through collaborative, compassionate, and forward-thinking leadership, I look forward to working with all members of our community to ensure The Leys continues to flourish.



## FEATURED NEWS

### A Summer of Academic Excellence

This summer, The Leys School celebrated the exceptional academic achievement of its A Level and GCSE pupils. Their outcomes reflect the School's enduring commitment to academic rigour, while also highlighting the holistic nature of a Leysian education; one that nurtures the whole pupil through outstanding pastoral care, a rich wider curriculum, and enhanced tutorial support.

At A Level, pupils achieved an impressive 24% of grades at A\*, 62% at A\*-A, and 86% at A\*-B, continuing the School's tradition of excellence. A record 71.3% of pupils attained at least ABB, and 94% secured places at their first-choice universities, reinforcing The Leys' reputation for preparing pupils for top destinations.

GCSE results were equally impressive, with 86% of all grades at 9, 8 or 7, 66% at 9 or 8, and 39% at grade 9, the highest on record. A value-added score of +0.7 per GCSE grade demonstrates the transformational impact of a Leysian education.

These results show that Leysian pupils achieve significantly better academically than is expected of pupils nationally, and of those in other independent schools. Success was evident across all areas of the academic curriculum, and it is impressive to see pupils achieving so well alongside their rich and varied wider curricular programmes.

Commenting on the results, Dr Clare Ives, Head of The Leys, said: "These outstanding results are a testament to the dedication of our pupils and the unwavering support of our teaching staff. I am particularly proud to see such strength across the range of academic subjects, which speaks to the breadth of excellence at The Leys. However, academic success is only one part of the Leysian journey. Our holistic approach ensures that pupils thrive not only in the classroom but also through the wider opportunities available to them, be it in drama, leadership, music, service, or sport. This balance is what makes a Leysian education so distinctive and so powerful."

As The Leys celebrates its 150th anniversary, these outstanding results reaffirm its position as a leading independent school – one where academic excellence is matched by a profound commitment to nurturing the whole person. The strength of its community and the depth of its educational ethos empower pupils to flourish in every aspect of their development. At The Leys, we recognise that education is more than preparation for life – it is life itself; rich with purpose, growth and belonging.

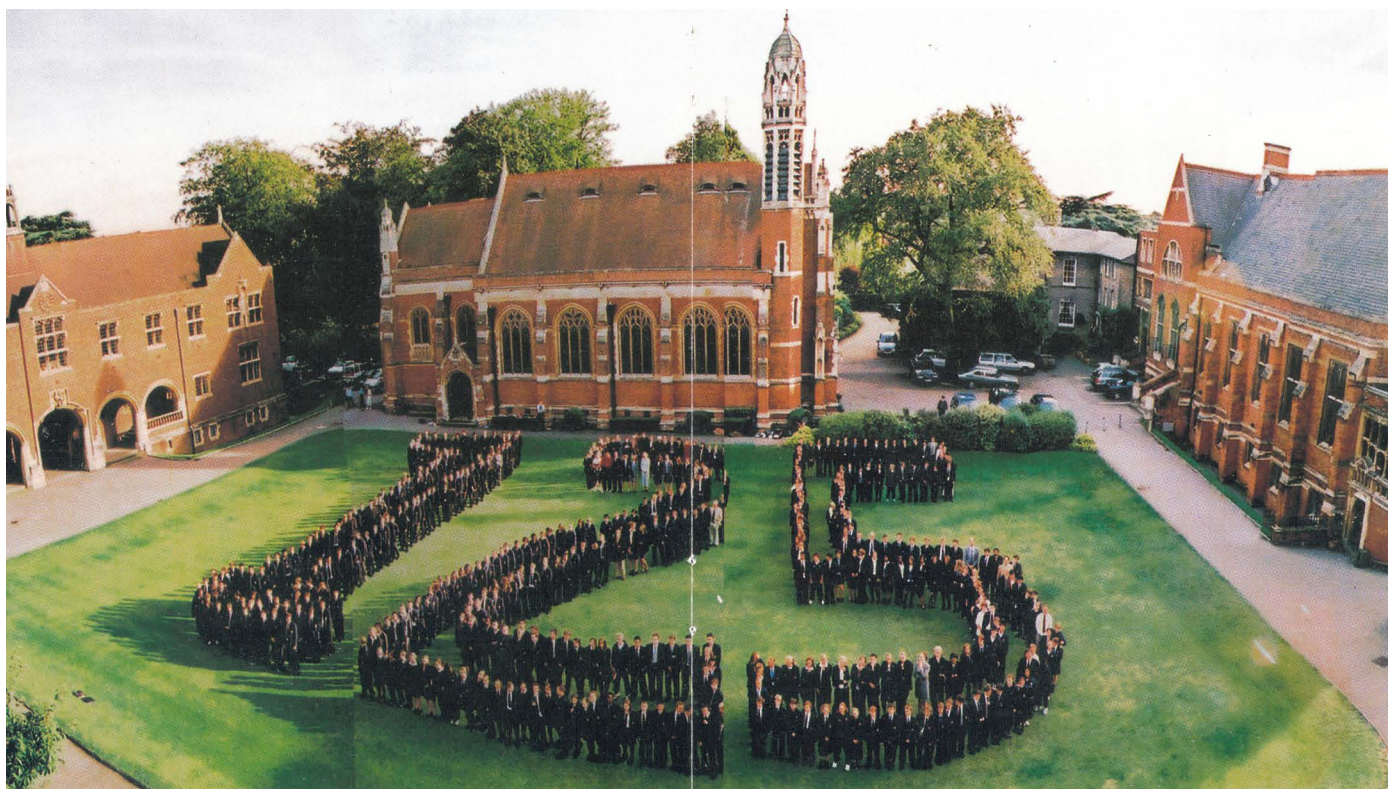




## FEATURED NEWS

### 150 Years Together

To mark our 150th anniversary, pupils and staff came together on the Upper Quad to form a commemorative '150,' on Wednesday 24 September 2025. This special moment echoes a similar occasion from the year 2000, when the school celebrated its 125th year in the same way. Both photographs were taken by Mr Harmsworth, who has once again captured the spirit and unity of the school community.





## FEATURED NEWS

### Success at Rotary Peace Debates

On the evening of Monday 6 October, a three-person team from The Leys emerged victorious in the Rotary Peace Debates held at Impington Village College. Cameron M, Mufaro M, and Jacob L-A, ably assisted by their reserve Jonathan S, delivered an outstanding performance opposing the motion: *This House believes that nationalism and individualism are both necessary for a peaceful society.*

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 teams from Impington Village College, King's Ely, The Perse, Netherhall, and Bishop Laney (Ely). The principal organiser of the event praised the debaters on their powerful speeches, whilst the judges made reference to the pupils' confidence.

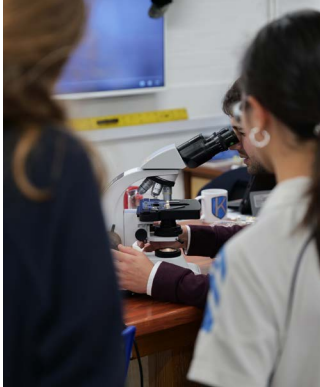
Dr Himsworth, who accompanied the pupils, commented: "Very many congratulations to all four pupils, who thoroughly deserved their success. Cameron, Mufaro, Jacob and Jonathan exemplified at Impington the virtues of an all-round, Leysian education; the three debaters spoke with both confidence and skill, and all of the pupils were fabulous representatives for the School. They should be immensely proud of their achievements, as I am of them."



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Science Club

We encourage our pupils to get involved in many activities, to help enrich their learning. One of these is the weekly science club. During September the group explored Moss and how it behaves. With the help of staff, the pupils were guided in observing the structure up close.



### THB The Right to Online Privacy

The motion 'THB in the right to online privacy,' was debated between pupils at lunchtime of Thursday 18 September, for the House Debating Competition, in the Great Hall, which saw a great turnout

All participants rose to the challenge in communicating their points, with well-structured arguments and responding thoughtfully to audience questions. A very well done to all those involved.



### Lower Sixth Team Building

Our Lower Sixth pupils stepped away from their usual lessons to take part in activities aiding their leadership and collaboration skills. From constructing bridges to tackling problem-solving challenges and navigating woodland trails while blindfolded. It was fantastic to witness the year group coming together, supporting one another, and forming new connections along the way.



### Celebrating GCSE Summer Results

This term, we spoke with our Lower Sixth to reflect back on their GCSEs over the summer. We asked pupils what it meant to them, seeing the result of all their hard work pay off. Discover what helped our pupils succeed and what wisdom they would impart to the next cohort, the video 'Celebrating your success; one result at a time.' can be found on our social channels.



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Harvest Collection

For this year's Harvest, Sixth Form pupils came together to help load a van with food, toiletries and other essential items, generously donated for this year's collection. These donations were sent to support individuals and families in crisis. A big thank you to those who donated and to the Chapel Prefect Jonathan S. for coordinating the effort.



### ACEN Racial Inclusion Conference

Lower Sixth pupil Mufaro M. travelled to Eton College with Miss Robinson for the inaugural ACEN Racial Inclusion conference. The day was filled with student reflections, workshops and pertinent guest speakers such as Lord Simon Woolley, Master of Homerton College (pictured here) and award-winning author and journalist, Afua Hirsch.

This year was the 5th anniversary of the network's contributions to cultivating an anti-racist culture within private schools. The conference was an opportunity for The Leys to share key learnings and consolidate best practices as well as provide a safe space for our pupils of African Caribbean heritage.

### Year 9 and 10 Disco

This half term our Year 9 and 10 pupils came together for their Autumn Term Disco. It was a brilliant evening of fun for those attending. Events like these give our pupils the chance to connect, grow in confidence, and enjoy the spirit of The Leys community beyond the classroom.



### World Food Day

To mark World Food Day, staff congregated during break to connect with colleagues and enjoy a relaxed tea break.

Lodestone staff were on hand to explain food carbon labelling, with snacks marked to show their environmental impact, including a selection of low-carbon options. It was a great opportunity to raise awareness of the carbon footprint of our food choices.

More about World Food Day at: [fao.org/world-food-day/en](http://fao.org/world-food-day/en)



## TRIPS

### Physics at Work Exhibition

During September, nearly 70 of our Year 10 pupils visited the Physics at Work Exhibition at the impressive new Ray Dolby Centre at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. The group collectively experienced 18 unique exhibits that showcased the wonders and real-world applications of physics and related subjects. Pupils from The Leys have been attending this annual exhibition for around 30 years, and a huge thank you goes to the Physics department for making this happen.



### The Impact of Regeneration.

Our Year 11 Geographers travelled out to Stratford during this term, to investigate the impact of regeneration: from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to Hackney Wick.

Using surveys, questionnaires and service tallies, the pupils gathered data to assess social, economic, and environmental changes. The trip enabled the pupils to build essential GCSE skills and contributed to their GCSE Geography human fieldwork enquiry.

### Navy Cadets in Portsmouth

24 of our Navy Cadets travelled to Portsmouth for an action-packed visit. On Saturday 27 September, they toured several historic vessels, including Nelson's HMS Victory, a World War II submarine, and Henry VIII's flagship, The Mary Rose. On Sunday 28 September, the cadets took to the water, either sailing yachts from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight or enjoying motor cruising to Chichester Harbour.

A special well done to Senior Cadet Molly S, who did an outstanding job supporting, chaperoning, and reassuring the Year 10 cadets throughout the trip.





## SPORT

### Northlands School, Sports Afternoon

On Monday 8 September, we welcomed Northlands School from Argentina, to The Leys, where we held matches for volleyball, hockey and rugby.

Well done to all those participating, it was great to see the energy and teamwork demonstrated from players throughout the games.





## SPORT

### Moulton vs Heritage

A brilliant afternoon on the rugby pitch with our Moulton team taking on Heritage. The pupils showed great energy and teamwork throughout, building on their confidence and growing together as a team. A successful game with great effort from both sides.



### National Schools Scratch Competition

A pleasant afternoon was had by all, attending the National Schools Scratch competition, showcasing the skills of our pupils. Congratulations to all the players who took part.

The team won the first round 2-1; Hamish C won 7 up with six to play, Jack C won 6 and 5 and Ross K played a 1 handicap player, in a challenging match, competing well in a narrow defeat.

A special thanks to the Old Leysian Golf players – who kindly donated the teams new shirts!



### Cup Match Against Oundle School

Last week the U16A Girls' hockey team played a cup match against Oundle School. It was a very competitive match, with both teams showcasing excellent hockey. We wish the girls luck as they progress to the next round of the cup.





## MUSIC AND DRAMA

### Live at Bally G's

The return of 'Live at Bally G's', our pupil-led event, provides a fantastic informal platform for our musicians in the foyer of Great Hall. First up, was the turn of Dale House to perform, and well done to those who took part.



### Macbeth at Great Abington Primary

This term, we have been working with Year 6 pupils at Great Abington Primary School. Mrs Pulman-Jones from our Drama Department, assisted by Year 12 pupil Lexi W., ran the workshop to explore the Shakespearean classic, Macbeth.



The project culminated in a wonderful school performance, for their parents and fellow pupils. It was a brilliant collaboration showcasing creativity, confidence, and the power of drama!

### Newly Appointed Head Choristers

Well done to Upper Sixth pupils Cameron M. and Rose E. who have been appointed as Head Choristers. We wish them the best for the year ahead.



### Unplugged

Well done to all our pupils who performed in the 'Unplugged' concert on Tuesday 23 September. The eclectic programme featured music from Radiohead and Oasis to Lizzie McAlpine, and was thoroughly enjoyed by a packed audience of staff, pupils, and parents.



### Black Dyke Band

It was a true delight to welcome the world-renowned Black Dyke Band to perform in our Great Hall. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this unforgettable concert.

Under the masterful direction of Professor Nicholas Childs, the evening was filled with musical precision. The audience was captivated by a rich programme, featuring several outstanding soloists, including a wonderful xylophone solo in 'Helter Skelter.'



## MUSIC AND DRAMA

### Les Mis Rehearsals in Production

The rehearsals have begun for The Leys upcoming performance; Les Misérables. The drama studio was full of energy as they practised musical numbers and blocked out the scene. The drama department are only just getting started and we look forward to a glimpse behind the curtain as the term progresses.

Rehearsals continue ahead of our 4 nights of sold out performances of Les Misérables. Coinciding notably with the 40th anniversary of the musical premiering in London, at the Barbican Centre on 8 October 1985. As we sit within the heart of Cambridge, just a stones throw away from our very own stage, the Cambridge University Library holds archive of Herbert Kretzmer, the renowned lyricist of the English language version of Les Mis, where you can explore more.



### Music Scholars Take Centre Stage

A wonderful display of music at Great St Mary's Church in Cambridge, where our talented Music Scholars took to the stage. The audience were treated to a selection of pieces, in a range of instruments from piano to violin, each demonstrating their skills. A wonderful showcase of passion and determination that captivated the audience, leaving a lasting impression of the hard work each pupil has put in to their craft.





## VISITING GUESTS & WORKSHOPS

### Prefect Training

This years' Prefects were joined at The Leys by Team Thinking's Ian Davies, who provided leadership training, helping to guide them in their roles within the school community.

Our pupils advanced their skills in communication and teamwork, learning new techniques to enable success with their responsibilities.



### The Last Night of the Proms

Congratulations to our Visiting Music Teacher, Lucy Walker, whose composition 'Today' was featured in The Last Night of the Proms, performed alongside a star-studded cast including Bill Bailey, Sir Brian May, and Roger Taylor.

Lucy teaches clarinet and piano at The Leys, and was recently commissioned to compose the piece 'Let all the world in every corner sing' for our 150 anniversary celebrations.



### Robotic Surgery

The Leys was joined by Dr Mark Slack, CMO & co-founder of Cambridge Medical Robotics (pictured right) who gave a talk on robotic surgery, with their latest invention - the Versius, surgical robot.

Our head of department for Design, Engineering & Technology, Clive Battle (pictured left) was in attendance, along with many, who found the talk fascinating. Dr Mark Slack provided an engaging talk, drawing from his breadth of experience as a surgeon, inventor and entrepreneur.





## VISITING GUESTS & WORKSHOPS

### Jay Kimpton - CEO

We were delighted to welcome Jay Kimpton, a new Leys parent and seasoned CEO, to speak with our Sixth Form pupils. Drawing on 30+ years in global apparel, Jay shared insights on connecting with customers, seizing opportunities, and the importance of honesty, humility, and kindness. He encouraged pupils to find their passion, make mistakes early, ask for help, and develop key skills like listening, motivating, and connecting, reminding us that experience and adaptability are vital.



### Medical Ethics Workshop with Dr Zoe Fritz

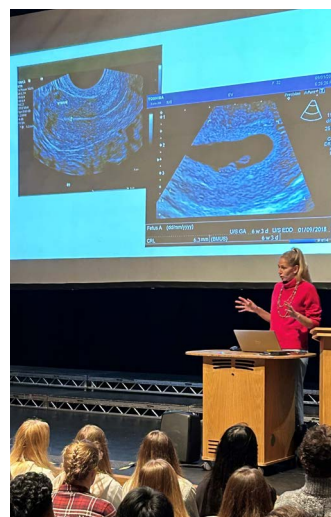
On Thursday 9 October, we were joined at The Leys by Dr Zoe Fritz, Associate Professor in Medical Ethics and Ageing at the University of Cambridge. With the help of her team of volunteer medics, 90 pupils from 11 local schools and colleges participated in the Medical Ethics Workshop.

Pupils utilised group activities to discuss the Assisted Suicide Bill, debated real medical ethical dilemmas faced in practice, including doctors' use of AI in decision making and whether it's ethical for patients to request life-sustaining treatments, even if doctors believe they'll be futile.

### Surgical Skills Workshop

The Leys welcomed Miss Gioia Canciani (Consultant Gynaecologist, Hysteroscopy and Menopause Lead at Cambridge University Hospitals) to lead a hands-on surgical skills workshop. Pupils, including from 22 different schools and colleges, were offered valuable insights into life as a surgeon.

The workshop, run by a team of clinical medical students from Cambridge University Surgical Society, provided the chance for pupils to try out suturing, laparoscopy, ultrasound, whilst also learning more about life at medical school and practice interview techniques, all key to discovering more about the path of medicine as a future career choice.



### Wendy Holden & Eva Clarke

An unforgettable evening for our pupils, when best selling author Wendy Holden visited. She shared insights into her writing journey, her journalism roots and the powerful inspiration behind her work.

Alongside Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke, whose story is at the heart of Holden's book 'Born Survivors', the talk was a demonstration of determination, resilience and the power of storytelling.





## COMMUNITY LIFE

### Dates For Your Diary



### Festive Celebration featuring The Leys Chapel Choir

**Friday 28 November 2025**

**18:30-20:00**

*Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU*

The perfect start to the Christmas season, and suitable for the whole family. This atmospheric service of lessons, carols and beautiful choir anthems will be followed by seasonal refreshments in the adjacent Radnor Hall. Come along to support our talented readers and Chapel Choir.

There is no charge to attend this event, but please register at [2025 Festive Celebration - The Leys](#)

### Wine tasting event

**Friday 13 March 2026**

**17:00-22:00**

*Great Hall*

Building on the success of last year's gourmet evening, the Development team have something very special planned for next year's parent wine tasting.

Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks, as these popular events always sell out fast.





## COMMUNITY LIFE



### International Old Leysian Events

Earlier this month, in between attending meetings in Germany, International Admissions Officer Kea Haw enjoyed catching up with a small group of Old Leysians in Munich.

The feedback from everyone involved was extremely positive, and hopefully the start of a more connected OL network within Germany.

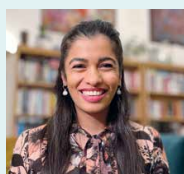
Kea said: "It was lovely to hear our OLs talk so fondly of their time in Cambridge and share what they are doing now." Admissions and Development are planning further collaborations for international OL meet and greets, with Tokyo next on the agenda.

### 150 Years: A Leysian Journey - Don't Forget to Collect Your Copy!

If you ordered a printed copy of our recent Commemorative Magazine and have not yet received or collected your copy, please contact the Development team on [development@theleys.net](mailto:development@theleys.net) to arrange collection or delivery. We still have several copies awaiting collection. Thank you.



**150**  
1875-2025  
ACHIEVING THE EXCEPTIONAL



# 150 YEARS

A LEYSIAN JOURNEY | 1875-2025

### The Four Trails

For one night only, the documentary film, directed, filmed and edited by OL Robin Lee, is being shown in Cambridge.

The film has won numerous awards and Robin was awarded Best New Director this year. It's been shown to sell out audiences in London, Paris, Lisbon, Toronto, Singapore.

The film centres on a trail running challenge in Hong Kong and is a wonderful story about human endeavour and endurance.

**Everyman cinema - Cambridge**  
**Thursday 6 November**  
**18.30**

Tickets via:  
[everymancinema.com/film-listing/1000015471-four-trails](http://everymancinema.com/film-listing/1000015471-four-trails)



## IN MEMORIAM

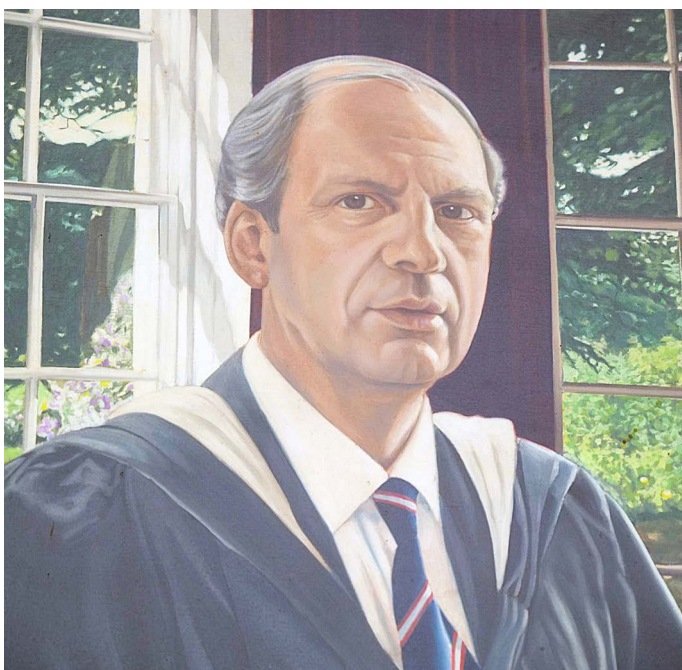
### Bertie Bellis

We were saddened to share that Bertie Bellis, the sixth Headmaster of The Leys, passed away on Wednesday 1 October at the age of 98.

Bertie was educated at Kingswood School and St John's College, Cambridge, where he was a Mathematical Exhibitioner. His teaching career began in 1951 at Rossall School, followed by a distinguished tenure at Highgate School as Head of Mathematics and later Housemaster. In 1965, he was appointed Headmaster of Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh, and subsequently became Principal of the newly merged Daniel Stewart's and Melville College, overseeing a combined student body of 1,450 boys.

A respected figure in the academic community, Bertie served as President of the Mathematical Association from 1971 to 1972 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1972. With a strong Methodist background, Bertie continued the legacy of our first three Headmasters, leading The Leys from 1975 to 1986 through a period of national economic challenge. His tenure was marked by significant internal refurbishments and the introduction of girls into the Sixth Form.

Clare Ives, current Head of The Leys, shared: "Although I did not have the privilege of knowing Mr Bellis personally, it is clear from his legacy that he was a Headmaster of great vision and integrity. His leadership during a time of change and challenge helped shape the school we know today. We honour his memory and extend our deepest sympathies to his family and all who knew him."





# Follow Us

We are active on Facebook, 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



@leyscambridge



The Leys School





# What's On?

**Concerto Competition Concert**  
**Friday 7 November**  
**19:00**  
*Winton Thomas Recital Hall*



**Autumn Concert**  
**Friday 14 November**  
**19:30**  
*Great Hall*



**The Leys Connection - Make your own Christmas SWAG**  
**Wednesday 19 November**  
**19:15PM**  
*Old Gym*



THE Leys  
CAMBRIDGE

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**Les Misérables School Edition**  
**3 - 6 December 19:15**  
**Great Hall**



Winner of over 100 international awards and seen by over 15 million people worldwide, *Les Misérables* is an epic and uplifting story about the survival of the human spirit in 19th century France. Jean Valjean is released from years of imprisonment but finds not freedom for him but mistrust and mistreatment. He breaks his parole in hopes of starting a new life, initiating a lifelong struggle for redemption as he is relentlessly pursued by police inspector Javert, who refuses to believe Valjean can change his ways. Finally, during the Paris student uprising of 1832, Javert abandons his ideals after Valjean spares his life and saves that of the student revolutionary who has captured the heart of Valjean's adopted daughter. Arguably one of the greatest musicals of all time, this 'whole school' production will for the first time in a generation at The Leys involve pupils across all year groups performing together on stage.

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

The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD

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