



LeysLife

A Message from the Head



As we arrive at the summer half term, the School finds itself at an interesting point in the year; still full of energy and purpose, yet offering moments to take stock. Recent weeks have been marked by a rich variety of experiences, from the polish and ambition of the Saffron Hall concert to the collective spirit of Interhouse Athletics. Each has reflected the breadth of talent and commitment across our community.

It has also been a particular pleasure to see pupils making the most of our outdoor spaces, enjoying the campus in full as the season allows. There is something deeply important about this; time spent outside, connected to one another and to the natural environment, which plays such a vital role in supporting well-being and flourishing.

Alongside this, a number of pupils are now working more independently on study leave or in the midst of examinations. Their focus and perseverance are evident, and we wish them every success as they continue through this important period.

Half term offers a valuable pause within all of this - a chance to gain perspective and restore a sense of balance. For some, that will mean rest and a change of scene; for others, an opportunity to steady the pace and prepare for what lies ahead.

We look forward to the School returning to full voice in the weeks to come, ready to make the most of the final stretch of the academic year.



FEATURED NEWS

U16 Hockey Association Trophy Victory

The Leys U16A boys were crowned champions after a dramatic and hard-fought final on Thursday 23 April, showing resilience, composure and belief to secure victory in a tense encounter.

The Leys made a positive start and took an early lead in the first quarter when Ross K finished from a well-worked short corner to make it 1–0. The remainder of the first half developed into a closely contested contest, with both sides enjoying spells of possession but finding clear chances hard to come by.

Despite the evenly balanced nature of the game, The Leys trailed 2–1 by the end of the third quarter. The boys responded impressively, producing their most dominant spell of hockey in the final quarter. Playing with relentless energy and intensity, they controlled possession, created a series of chances and limited Merchant Taylors' opportunities on the ball.

That pressure was rewarded late on when Jack C struck a well-taken equaliser with three minutes remaining. The Leys continued to press and earned two short corners in the final minute, but the match finished 2–2 and was decided by penalty shuffles.

In the shoot-out, Lorenz W delivered an outstanding performance in goal, saving all four opposition shuffles with a calm and commanding presence. That set the



stage for George C, who converted skilfully to secure the trophy, prompting celebrations among the players and the nervously watching supporters.

Director of Sport, Ben Elston praised both the players and those supporting them: "This was an exceptional performance from a resilient and dedicated group of boys who showed real belief when it mattered most. They were superbly supported throughout the season by the coaching team, whose preparation, commitment and calm guidance were crucial in helping the players perform on such a big occasion. The whole school is immensely proud of what they have achieved."

A memorable victory in a demanding final, and a thoroughly deserved U16 Trophy title for The Leys.



FEATURED NEWS

Sixth Form Team Reach Imperial College Final

Potential Difference, a Sixth Form physics team from The Leys, secured their place in the final of Imperial College London's prestigious Science & Innovation Competition.

The team (pictured left to right) Arad R, Natalia S, Abby L and Artem S, progressed to the national final, from a field of more than 250 teams nationwide. The competition, which aims to inspire young people to engage with science, whilst encouraging teamwork, curiosity and innovation, challenged participants to develop an original scientific solution addressing one of the United Nations' Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

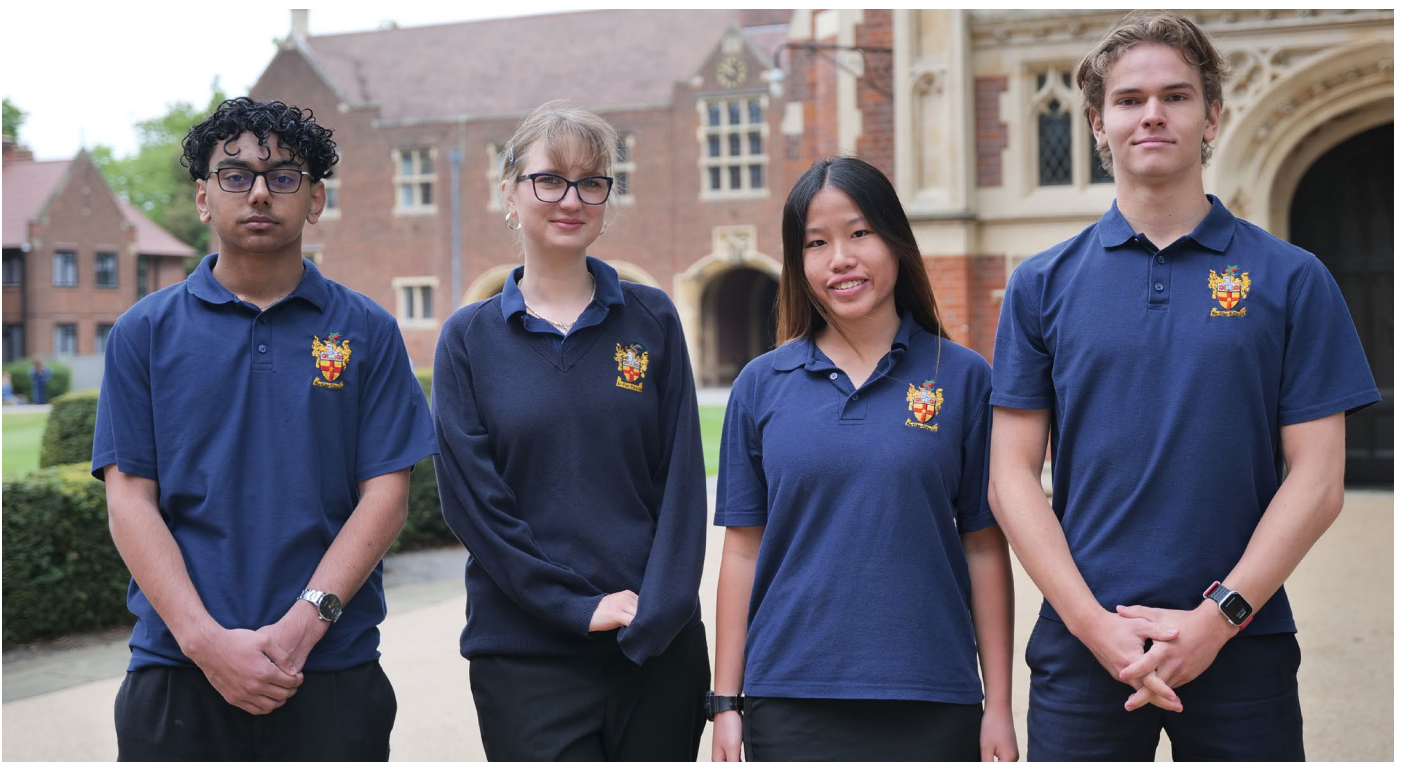
As part of their entry, teams were required to produce a five-minute film outlining the goal they selected, their innovative solution, including the science behind their idea and illustrate how their idea addressed the goal. In entering the competition, the group designed a self-charging shoe capable of generating and storing electrical energy anywhere in the world. Then, using facilities in both the Physics and DT departments, they went on to build a working prototype.

Mr Harmsworth, Head of Physics, commented: "Their consistent energy for the project and can-do attitude every step of the way really did make this their own. They used the school facilities, but all the thinking and work was theirs, showing huge commitment, effort and ownership throughout."

On Earth Day, they took part in a demanding and nerve-wracking two-and-a-half-hour presentation, showcasing their work in the final round to a panel of expert judges. The judging panel, which included Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman, put teams through rigorous questioning. Despite the pressure, pupils delivered a confident and credible presentation, impressing the judges with both their technical understanding and practical application.

The team were awarded runners-up, with emphasis on the exceptionally high standard of their work and pupils left in no doubt that the judges were incredibly impressed. A remarkable achievement, reflecting both individual curiosity and the teams collaborative spirit.

Their success at Imperial College London is a fitting testament to their ambition and sets them on a great path for future pursuits.



FEATURED NEWS

Minerva Prize Winners 2026

In a prize giving ceremony held on Wednesday 29 April, the third Minerva Prize was awarded as follows:

Benji P - First place
Hermione H - Second place
Aimie D - Third place

The competition invited pupils to submit essays on a topic of their choosing for consideration by Stephen Hancock, former English teacher at The Leys and the person responsible for setting up the prize in 2023.

In beautiful sunshine on the Head's Lawn, pupils, staff and parents gathered for the announcement, with this year's essays displayed on boards around the patio for pupils, staff and guests to enjoy.

Stephen Hancock presented the winner with the Minerva trophy and praised the calibre of entries, noting that: "Choosing the winners and runners up was very hard; indeed, the value of these competitions is to be found in the process, and not the result."

Benji's winning essay, Counting stars and measuring meaning: Economic abstraction in *The Little Prince*, offered an original lens on Saint-Exupéry's much-loved novella. Stephen commended the "originality" of the argument, describing the essay as "well researched, well evidenced and sensitively written", adding that it ultimately became "a humane and mature piece" which shows how the text still resonates today.

Second place went to Hermione for *Erotic autonomy and social transgression: Reassessing female agency in Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's Lover*. In his feedback, Stephen praised Hermione's "mature and sensitive" writing and the way the essay "offered a nuanced and detailed study" of the tensions at the heart of Lawrence's novel, sustained through "extremely fluent" analysis and an impressive command of different critical approaches.

Third place was awarded to Aimie for *Jane Eyre: How does romantic idolisation affect religion?* Stephen highlighted the "fluency" of Aimie's writing and described her "elegant phrasing" as "one of the great pleasures" of reading the work, praising the essay's consistent, detailed and sustained argument.

Named after the Roman goddess of wisdom, and sponsor of the arts, medicine and crafts, the Minerva Prize celebrates ambitious reading and independent thinking, inviting pupils to explore the links between literature and the wider world. Pupils are invited to submit a 2,000-word essay on a title of their choosing, using literature, novels, drama or poetry as the lens through which to examine ideas from across disciplines.



This year's displayed essays reflected the breadth the prize encourages, tackling questions of politics, philosophy, faith and morality alongside close literary analysis and a wide range of texts and contexts. All entries can be read at theleys.net/minerva-prize-winners

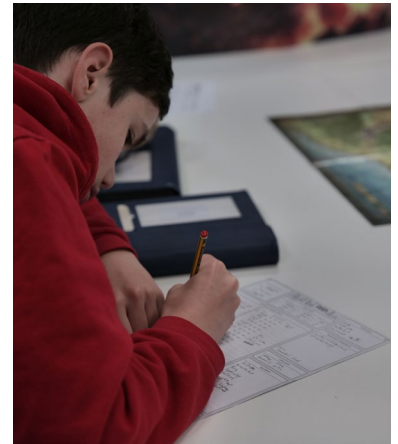
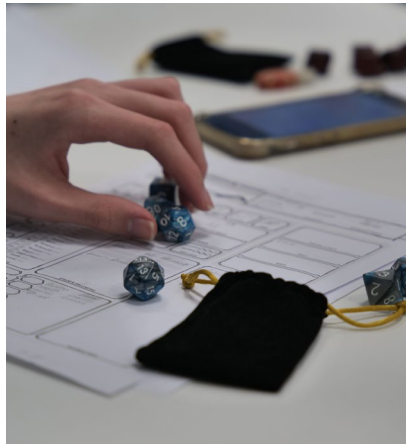


SCHOOL LIFE

Dungeons and Dragons Society

As pupils enjoyed their final sessions together before the half term break, our Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) society is one example of the creativity that flourishes in the community.

Through lively campaigns, pupils build friendships, spark imagination and strengthen teamwork - thriving beyond assessment and developing skills that enrich school life.



Celebrating Holy Week

As Easter approached, Lower Sixth pupils marked the occasion in Spanish by visiting St Alban's Catholic School.

Accompanied by their teachers, they took part in activities with the younger children to celebrate Holy Week, showing great enthusiasm and offering valuable support for their learning.



SCHOOL LIFE

Dale House Hold Quiz Night

The end of term saw our Dale House Quiz Night, attended by over 100 pupils in support of Women's Aid - the chosen House charity for Dale. Organised by the Lower Sixth, the evening featured rounds of music trivia, sport, general knowledge, flags, Dingbats and more.



Talking AI at The Leys

What does AI mean for pupils today?

Senior Prefects Archie N and Sofi P sat down with the Head to discuss how the School is navigating the opportunities and challenges of AI and emerging technologies.

Watch the [full video here](#)

Talking AI at The Leys

In conversation with our Senior Prefects and Head

SCHOOL LIFE

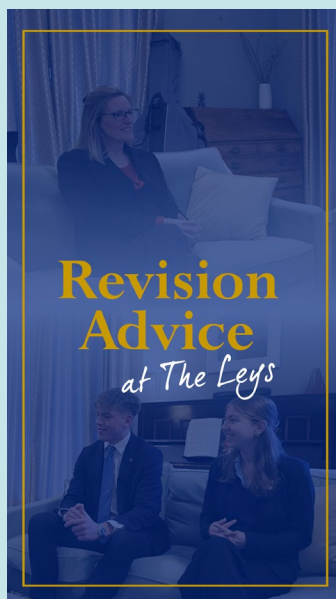
An Evening Ceilidh

To round off the end of term, Sixth Form pupils enjoyed a wonderful evening, beginning with dinner in the Dining Hall and followed by a lively cèilidh in the Great Hall, accompanied by live music. Everyone looked fantastic, and a thank you to the Sixth Form team for their excellent organisation.



Revision Advice

With our pupils in exam season, our Senior Prefects shared their thoughtful [reflections on approaching revision](#) with balance and perspective - alongside a reminder from the Head to prioritise rest and well-being.



SCHOOL LIFE

Misha Announced As Ellison Scholar

We are pleased to announce one of our pupils, Misha N, has been named an incoming Ellison Scholar for their 2026 cohort.

The Ellison Scholars Programme provides an incredible opportunity for Misha to study at the University of Oxford, while contributing to ground breaking scientific research at the Ellison Institute of Technology Oxford (EIT).

Congratulations to Misha.

Learn more about Misha's offer at theleys.net/oxbridge-mathematics-success or the Ellison Scholars Programme at eit.org/education-and-scholarships links in our story.



2026 Cohort

MISHA
IS AN INCOMING
ELLISON SCHOLAR

Upper Sixth Take Their Leavers Photos

Our Upper Sixth made their leavers' photo one to remember this year.

After the formal photographs were taken, pupils transformed the Upper Quad into a vibrant showcase of fancy dress.

Watch the [video here](#)



SCHOOL LIFE

Peter Watson Award Evening

On Friday 24 April the School hosted the Peter Watson Award presentation Evening - highest award for STEM research projects.

This year, pupils from Years 9-12 took part, presenting topics ranging from rocket motor efficiency to the wavelength dependence of photosynthesis. Awards are given for unusual observations, innovative thinking, constructive development of ideas and problem solving.

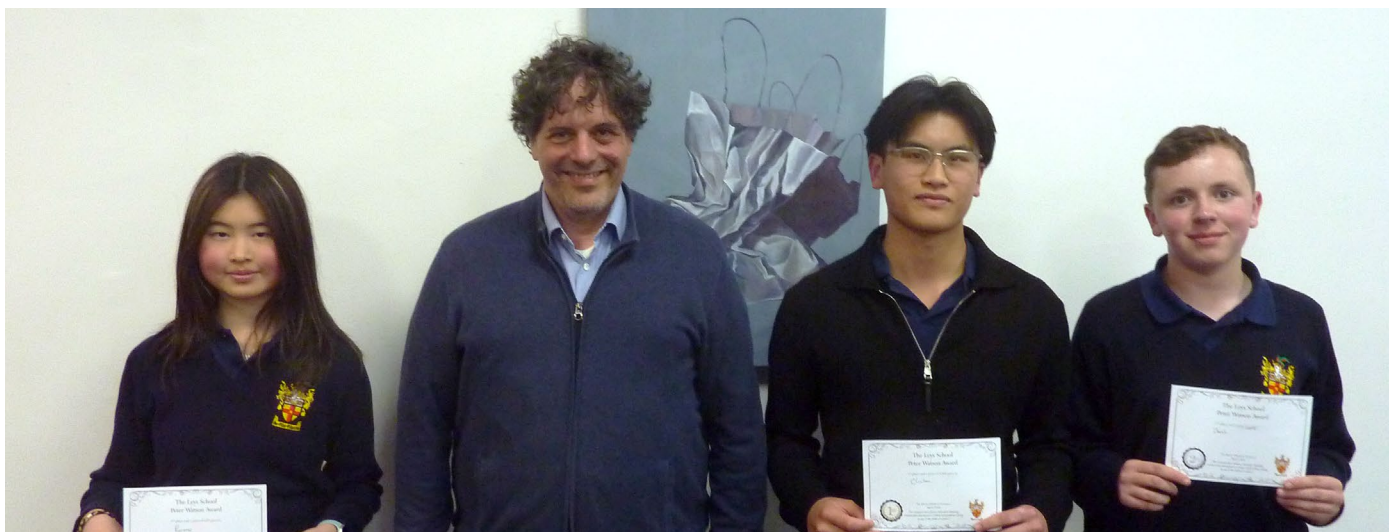
Well done to all those who took part and a special congratulations to runners up Jacob L-A and Roxanne C, and this year's overall winner Clinton C for his investigation on the radioactivity attenuation properties of different states of lead.



Grounds Care With Elliott

A sunny Friday at The Leys, with grounds keeper Elliott [caring for the grounds](#) across the site, as the summer term got underway.

A big thank you to Elliott and all our staff who work to keep the School operating smoothly.



SCHOOL LIFE

The Freudipus Revue

During the term our Lower Sixth Classics and Psychology pupils performed 'The Freudipus Revue'; a series of sketches and scenes from the classical Greek plays, Oedipus the King and Electra.

Pupils devised the scripts, performances, costumes and music to demonstrate Freud's 'Oedipus Complex' theory and Jung's 'Electra Complex,' adding commentary to highlight the plays' influences on early childhood development theories.

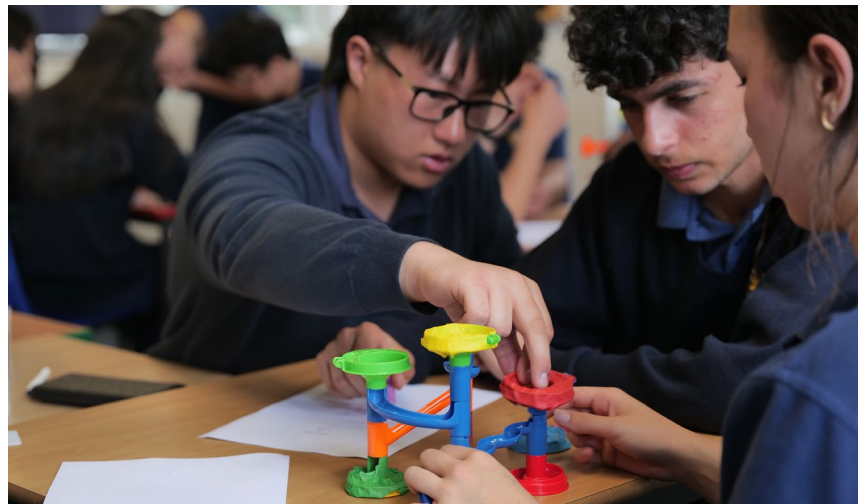


Maths Department Creates Escape Room Challenge

This term the Maths Department ran an escape room challenge for Lower Sixth pupils.

They tackled a series of challenges that encouraged teamwork and problem-solving, creating an enjoyable afternoon, with our Head and Senior Deputy Head joining to see the pupils in action.

It was a great opportunity for pupils to apply their knowledge beyond the classroom.



SCHOOL LIFE

Leavers Drinks For Upper Sixth

To celebrate our Upper Sixth, leavers' drinks were held with pupils from Dale, North A, Fen and West dressing up for the occasion and gathering on the Head's Lawn.

The photos capture a memorable evening for pupils and staff, before departing for their House dinners, set in the beautiful surroundings of the colleges.



TRIPS

Pupils Travel to Granada

Pupils travelled to the Spanish city of Granada during the Easter break and thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

Starting with an informative guided tour of the city centre, pupils soaked up the lively atmosphere, beautiful views, and glorious weather. The programme also included a visit to the Science Park, a captivating Flamenco performance in the Sacromonte Caves, time at the language school and an authentic cooking class that offered a real taste of Spanish culture.



Lower Sixth Take On Gold DofE

Lower Sixth pupils took part in their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award training and practice expedition, following preparation in camp skills and navigation.



Based in the remote village of Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales, 28 pupils began with a training walk with an instructor, before completing a three day independent expedition.

Despite challenging conditions including strong winds, snow and heavy rain, pupils gained valuable experience, developing teamwork, resilience and supporting one another throughout. A fantastic effort from all involved.

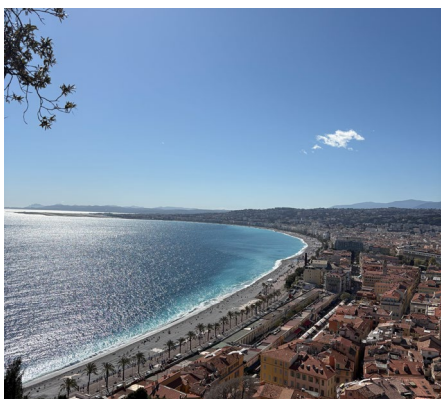
TRIPS

Easter Trip to Nice

Over the Easter break, pupils stayed with host families, in Nice. They took part in French lessons and immersed themselves in local culture.

Highlights of the trip included a guided walking tour of Nice, a visit to neighbouring Monaco, plus excursions to the picturesque hilltop village of Èze and coastal town of Antibes.

The trip provided a memorable experience for those who joined, combining learning, exploration and fun.



Residential Field Trip to the Lake District

Lower Sixth Geographers enjoyed a residential field trip to the Lake District, gaining first hand experience of A Level fieldwork techniques within spectacular upland landscapes.

Across three days, pupils explored glaciated environments around Grasmere and Easedale Tarn, linking classroom theory to real world examples of erosional and depositional landforms.

The programme also looked at Water and Carbon cycles and fieldwork in Keswick, focusing on perceptions of place and the impacts of tourism. The trip helped prepare pupils for the NEA (Independent Investigation), 20% of the final A Level grade, and inspired several strong project ideas.

Throughout the visit, pupils were excellent ambassadors for the School, demonstrating maturity, curiosity and a consistently conscientious approach to their studies.



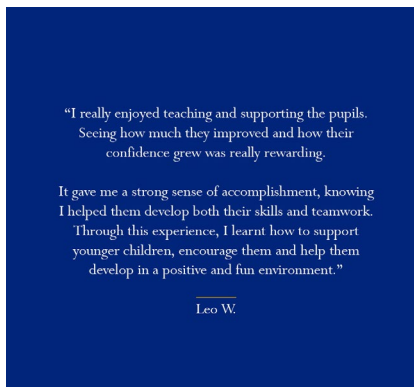
SPORT

Local School Partnerships

We value our strong partnerships with local schools and this term we welcomed Great Abington Primary to our School. Several events were held for our visitors:

- Specialist rugby coaching delivered by Mr Rigden, preparing pupils for the Small Schools Tag Rugby Tournament - which they went on to win!
- Hockey sessions for Years 5 and 6 with Mr Davies and Leo W, helping pupils develop individually and as a team ahead of the Small Schools Quicksticks Hockey Competition, where they secured 1st place.
- A Sports Day for Years 3 and 4, delivered by our Sports Leaders on Wednesday 25 March, featuring a carousel of activities and finishing with parachute games enjoyed by all.

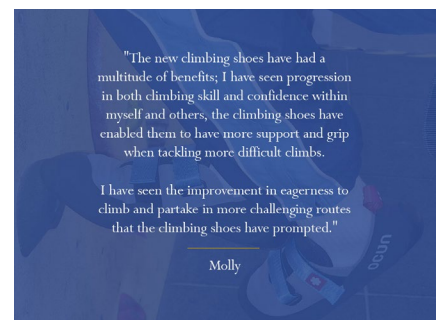
A fantastic roundup of results and a testament to the hard work, determination and positive spirit of all staff, pupils and our visitors.



TLC Fund New Climbing Shoes

Following the introduction of new climbing shoes, pupils discussed the positive impact the equipment has had on their climbing experience. They highlighted increased confidence, greater precision and improved grip during climbs, enabling them to perform at a higher level.

We are extremely grateful to The Leys Connection for making this possible. Read testimonials from the pupils, to find out how these new shoes have enhanced climbing at The Leys.



SPORT

Rowing on The Cam

The end of April saw our rowers take to the water in the local Head of the Cam. Three boats were victorious, including the Girls' Junior 18 Double, the Boys' Junior 18 Eight and the Girls' Junior 15 coxed quad. We're so lucky to have such an amazing boathouse and wonderful coaches.

Well done too all the rowers that have competed this season. Brilliant effort from all!



Marylebone Cricket Club Visit The Leys

It was wonderful to welcome Marylebone Cricket Club, which included OL's Issy, Georgia and Francesca, to the School for an afternoon of cricket, playing teams from The Leys and The Perse.

The guests enjoyed lunch on the Head's Lawn, offering a welcome opportunity to pause, enjoy the sunshine and connect, before play resumed.



Golf With Old Leysians

The Summer term brings around the annual golf match against the Old Leysian team. Held at The Gog Magog Golf Club, it proved to be a closely contested and enjoyable fixture.

With several matches going down to the 18th green, the standard of golf was high throughout. Hamish C and Ross K produced a standout 6 and 4 win with composed par golf, whilst Hugh M and Theo W combined effectively, to claim victory on the final hole.

Well done to players across the four year groups who represented the School, showing great enthusiasm and sportsmanship.



SPORT

Interhouse Athletics at Wilberforce Road

A wonderful atmosphere at the Wilberforce Road Athletics Track yesterday, where this year's House Athletics competition took place. Pupils demonstrated great effort and enthusiasm in all events, alongside loud encouragement from the sidelines from friends and Houses.

A huge thank you to Mr Coe for organising such an enjoyable and successful afternoon!



MUSIC AND DRAMA

End of Year Concert at Saffron Hall

The annual End of Year Concert took place at Saffron Hall on Thursday 30 April, showcasing musicians from across the year groups.

Introduced by the Director of Music, Mr Kenworthy, performances featured the Clarinet Group, Junior Band, Brass Group and Chamber Choir, with highlights including Saint-Saëns' Aquarium by Sharon D and Daniel L and the Orchestra's performance of the 2nd movement of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in A minor with soloist Kaka C.

Congratulations to all involved, and thank you to the Music Department for making it a memorable evening.



Year 9 Take to the Stage

Our Year 9 pupils took to the stage for a two-night showcase of Bright Young Things. A play, set against the backdrop of a television show, follows young geniuses as they compete to win a coveted prize.

Following their rehearsals, the cast went on to have two successful performances. Well done to all the cast and crew who made it such a special showcase.



COMMUNITY LIFE



Parents are Leysians for Life

As a parent, we hope you would like to remain a part of The Leys' family even after your child has left the School.

We extend our warmest wishes to all families who will be leaving The Leys this summer. Please keep an eye out for future invitations to events for former parents.

To our departing pupils, we send our congratulations and every good wish as they take their next steps as Old Leysians. We look forward to welcoming them back in the months and years ahead.

Sarah Proud

Director of Development



150 YEARS

A LEYSIAN JOURNEY | 1875-2025



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.



@theleyschoolcambridge



@leyscambridge



The Leys School



LIONS 2026 BOYS RUGBY RESIDENTIAL



Our residential camp gives your child the opportunity to develop as a player both on and off the pitch.

Immersing in three days of non-stop Rugby, the residential includes:

- ✓ 3 Days & 2 Nights
- ✓ 3 Meals a Day
- ✓ High Class Facilities
- ✓ Lions T Shirt
- ✓ Player feedback forms
- ✓ Camp Awards

Comfortable boarding house rooms, perfect for winding down after a full day of Rugby.

- ✓ Technical and tactical Rugby practices
- ✓ Led by RFU qualified coaches
- ✓ Evening activities - tennis, cricket, swimming etc.
- ✓ **Professional player guest appearance**
- ✓ Q&A with professional player
- ✓ Group discount available (4 or more)



**26th-28th
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Only
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**9-15 year
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The Leys School
(Cambridge, CB2 7AD)



www.lionssports.academy/bookingpage

More Information

0203 424 5070

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What's On?

Moulton Summer Showcase (Years 7 - 8)

Friday 19 June - 19:00
Saturday 20 June - 14:30

Great Hall



Summer Cabaret **Wednesday 24 - Thursday 25 June** **19:30**

Great Hall

This popular annual compilation of music, drama, comedy sketches & dance will sell-out quickly.

Tables available to book from 21 April.



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