



# LeysLife



## A Message from the Head

It has been a term of extraordinary pace and energy; rich in opportunity, full of activity and, above all, full of joy. While the momentum has begun to ease in the final days, the sense of purpose and shared achievement has remained constant and is clear in the celebratory spirit of the last week.

In the arts, this has been a richly creative term. Drama productions from Year 7–9 were filled with confidence and imagination, while events such as the Summer Cabaret and the visit to Saffron Hall showcased an inspiring level of collaboration, talent and creativity among pupils.

I wish you all a restful and restorative summer holiday, and I look forward to welcoming the community back in September.



## FEATURED NEWS

### The Leys and St Faith's to Merge

The Leys School and St Faith's School in the heart of Cambridge are set to become a single co-educational school from September 2028.

The two schools – which have been part of the same foundation since 1938 – are merging to offer a seamless all-through educational journey from Early Years to Sixth Form. Under the plan, pupils from Early Years to Year 8 will be educated at the current St Faith's site, while Years 9 to 13 will be based at the current site of The Leys. The all-through School will be called 'The Leys School, Cambridge'.

This development will ensure continuity and alignment of the educational journey, vision and curriculum from Early Years to Sixth Form and will provide pupils and families greater opportunities, clarity of provision and a rich, seamless and distinctive educational experience across their time at the School.

"This is the start of a new and very exciting chapter for our two schools," said Chair of the Foundation's Governing

Body, Sir Matthew Rycroft. "Our schools already enjoy extremely close collaboration. They share the same ethos, values, school motto and deliver an outstanding education for our pupils."

"This plan frees vital capacity at The Leys site allowing us to meet demand from families for places in Years 9 to 13," said Sir Matthew. "We will be better positioned to widen access at every entry point to our two schools and offer stronger continuity for our pupils."

The move to an all-through model will support greater collaboration between staff, create a more integrated curriculum, and offer families a simpler admissions route through the Foundation. It will also allow the Foundation to make more effective use of space across both sites through having Years 7 and 8 at the St Faith's site, and expanding capacity in Years 9–13 at The Leys site, where demand for places significantly exceeds supply.

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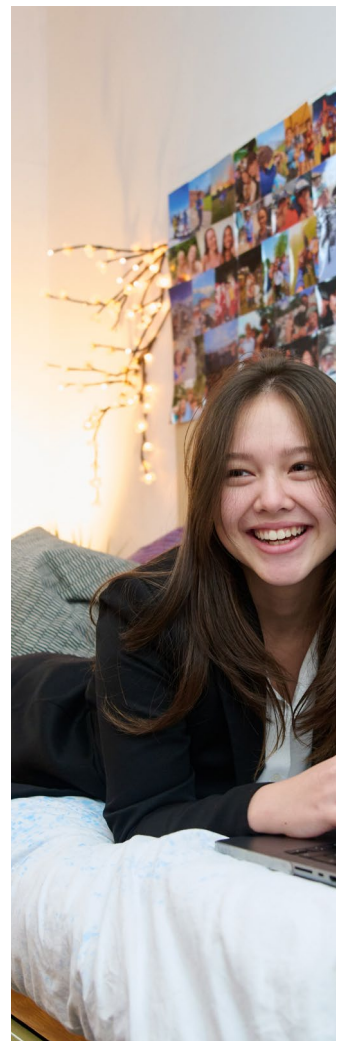
## FEATURED NEWS

“By aligning our provision across both sites we will be better placed to widen access, strengthen continuity and ensure that pupils at every stage benefit from the full breadth of our academic and wider curricular offer,” Sir Matthew added.

Further details about admissions arrangements, transport between sites and expanded wider curricular offering will be shared as the planning phase develops over the next two years. There is no change for pupils currently at either school prior to September 2028. The Leys, which celebrated its 150th anniversary last year, was set up by Methodists in 1875. The co-educational School currently has 565 pupils and occupies a 50-acre site in the heart of the university city. St Faith’s, was established in 1884, is also located in central Cambridge, close to The Leys, and set in a spacious 9-acre site. It is the largest preparatory school in Cambridge with 541 pupils.

“Both schools, by adapting to change over their long histories have continued to deliver excellent educational opportunities for pupils as evidenced by their latest ISI inspection reports,” said Sir Matthew.

“By building on our shared heritage, we are strengthening the Foundation for the long term and ensuring that future generations of pupils will benefit from the same breadth, care and ambition that define our schools today”.



## FEATURED NEWS

### Celebrating Royal and Parliamentary Leadership

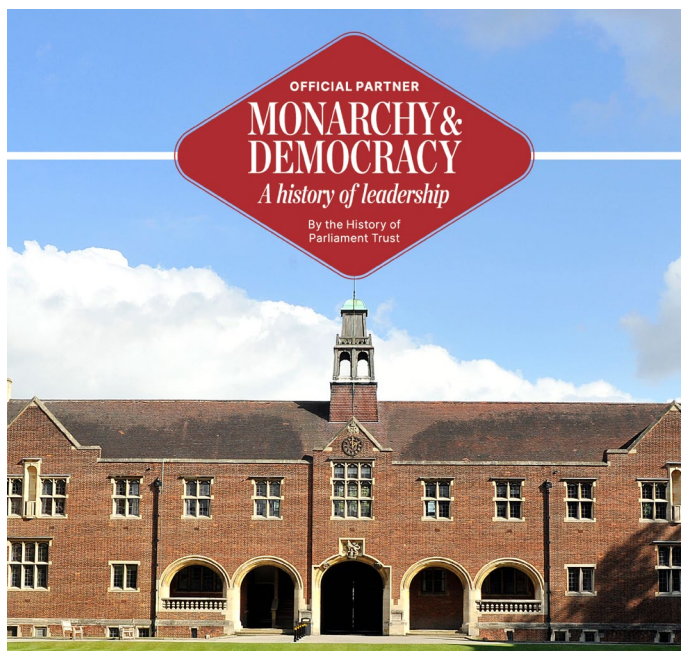
The Leys School, Cambridge has been selected to appear in a new publication entitled *Monarchy and Democracy: A History of Leadership*.

An official History of Parliament project, the landmark book is being produced in partnership with leading publisher St James's House and will be launched on 9 June 2026 in the grounds of Westminster Abbey, London.

Written by a team of prominent academics and award-winning authors, including royal experts Robert Jobson, Russell Myers and Katie Nicholl, the fully illustrated hardback explores the evolving roles of the Crown and Parliament in shaping leadership across the UK and the Commonwealth. It charts key constitutional developments, from the Act of Settlement of 1701 through to the profound political and social changes of the past century.

The publication also profiles a carefully selected group of organisations invited to take part in the project in recognition of their alignment with its themes of leadership, governance, education and contribution to public life.

Dr Clare Ives, Head of The Leys, said: "We are pleased for The Leys to be included in *Monarchy and Democracy: A History of Leadership*. As a school, we place great importance on developing thoughtful, principled young people who understand the responsibilities that come with leadership. Engagement with projects of this kind encourages reflection on the institutions, values and civic frameworks that have shaped our society, and on the roles today's leaders, in education and beyond, play in sustaining them."



Dr Jennifer Davey, Director at the History of Parliament Trust, said: "The book not only explores the history and evolution of UK and Commonwealth governance and the shift to a constitutional monarchy, but also profiles a selection of organisations invited to join the project based on their relevance to the themes of leadership, innovation, sustainability and governance."

Stephen van der Merwe, Group Director at the SJH Group, added: "Through in-depth interviews with the leaders of organisations featured in the book, *Monarchy and Democracy* offers a compelling first-hand perspective on how leadership is being shaped across areas including education, governance, enterprise and civic life."

The publication's launch will coincide with the London Press Club Summer Garden Party, attended by more than 300 senior figures from the UK media, and will include a tribute marking the life and legacy of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Available in both print and digital formats and distributed on a controlled-circulation basis, *Monarchy and Democracy: A History of Leadership* will reach key political, institutional and educational audiences in the UK, Europe and across the Commonwealth, supported by a complimentary digital edition.



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Celebrating World Bee Day

To mark World Bee Day, we share a moment from our School grounds, when bees appeared in our beautiful blossom tree back in April.

World Bee Day reminds us of the vital role bees play in our ecosystems and food supply, and the importance of protecting them. To ensure they were safely rehomed, a beekeeper was called in, protecting both the bees and our school community.



### Donations to Women's Resource Centre

Our Year 10 girls gathered together unused toiletries from pupils across the school to donate to the Cambridge Women's Resource Centre.

A fantastic example of combining sustainability with social impact, reducing waste while making a meaningful difference in our local community.

### The Flight of The Peregrine

Congratulations to Mr Henderson, our Director of Marketing and Admissions, on the publication of his debut novel 'The Flight of The Peregrine'.

The story begins with the discovery of a mysterious signal from a distant world, revealing a lost human civilisation facing an uncertain future. The novel draws together a rich cast of characters navigating a shifting landscape. As long-buried histories begin to surface, the story unfolds as one of discovery, loyalty and the quiet strength of those who understand more than they first reveal.

Now available to purchase on Amazon.



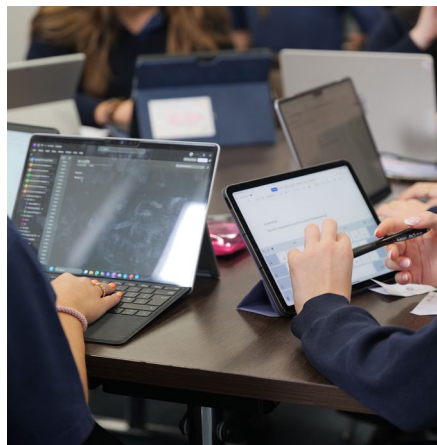
## SCHOOL LIFE

### Lower Sixth University preparation

On Thursday 11 June our Lower Sixth pupils took part in a series of sessions focused on university preparation, future career skills and personal development. The day concluded with OL Harry Tanguy-Brown, currently studying at Bath University, giving a reflective talk on life beyond school.

Activities included:

- David Metcalfe from Newcastle University, speaking on how to write a strong UCAS personal statement.
- Cambridge-based scientists, Dr Lukas Westlake and Dr Magda Richter of Factbased, led an AI workshop to help develop pupils' AI literacy within future career skills.
- Simon Phillips of The Change Maker Group led 'Networking for Success,' a practical session, designed to build confidence in face-to-face conversation, self-introduction and relationship-building



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Oxford University Flash Fiction Competition

Congratulations to Jasmin L, Aisha B and Anagha A, who entered the Oxford University Flash Fiction Competition. The competition saw the three pupils highly commended for their Spanish stories, based on creativity and linguistic talent.

In showcasing their willingness to challenge themselves beyond the classroom, we hope their success inspires others to embrace new opportunities.



### Fen House Charity Fundraising

Fen House took to Slater Court for their charity event "Teacher Splat" which was a much anticipated activity, where pupils had the chance to splat teachers with wet sponges, drawing plenty of laughter, spectators and eager participation. Together with a bake sale, these events helped to raise funds in support of Fen House's chosen cause.



### EPQ presentations

On Monday 15 June, twelve Lower Sixth pupils delivered presentations for the assessed component of their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Topics ranged from Nudge Theory, female serial killers, Livy's History of Rome, French cuisine to accessible intergenerational living. It was a wonderful evening, celebrating a year's worth of hard work, shared with supervisors, tutors, HsMs, alongside friends and family.



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Virtual Escape Room for C Cubed

On Wednesday 17 June, we welcomed pupils from St Faith's as part of the C Cubed programme to tackle a virtual escape room challenge, 'Lift of Crisis'!

Launched at the start of this academic year, the programme enhances enrichment opportunities for Years 7 and 8 across both schools. This activity brought together mixed teams, providing an opportunity to collaborate and use their problem-solving skills to work through the tasks, concluding with an exciting rocket launch.



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Inter House Maths Challenge

The Inter House Maths Challenge took place Thursday 18 June afternoon, with teams of four from Years 9 and 10 taking part. The groups collaborated effectively, tackling a series of challenging problems. Congratulations to all those who took part for their effort and a special well done to the winning team – Fen House.



### National Thank a Teacher Day

To mark National Thank a Teacher Day on Wednesday 17 June, we spoke with pupils across the School about the many ways staff make a lasting impact. From the care of matrons to the encouragement of inspiring teachers, pupils recognised that everyone plays a part in teaching in different ways.

Watch the [full video here](#) to see what they had to say.

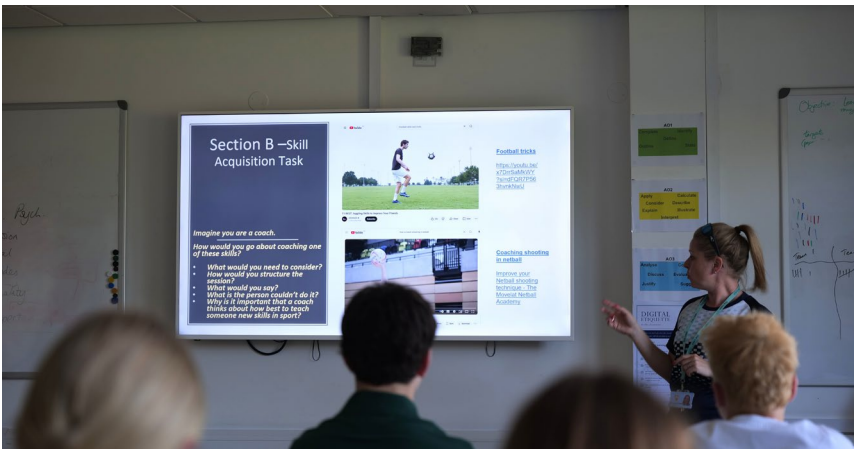
**Thank a  
Teacher Day**  
*at The Leys*



## SCHOOL LIFE

### HeadStart for Year 11

Today Year 11 took part in the Introduction to Sixth Form Studies Day called HeadStart. The day included 4 taster lessons in the morning, followed by a lecture and seminar discussion groups in the afternoon. The day is designed to give our Year 11 pupils a chance to look forward to their A-level studies and celebrate the end of their GCSE examinations. The day ended with a social occasion for everyone to come together on Slater Court for some well timed ice creams.



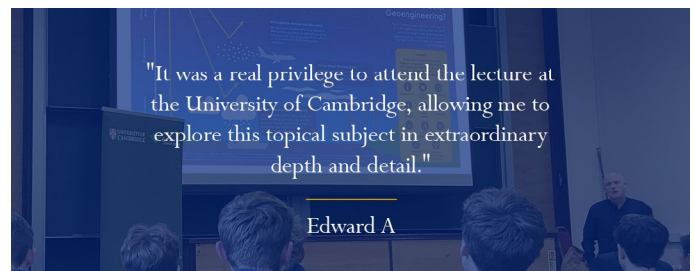
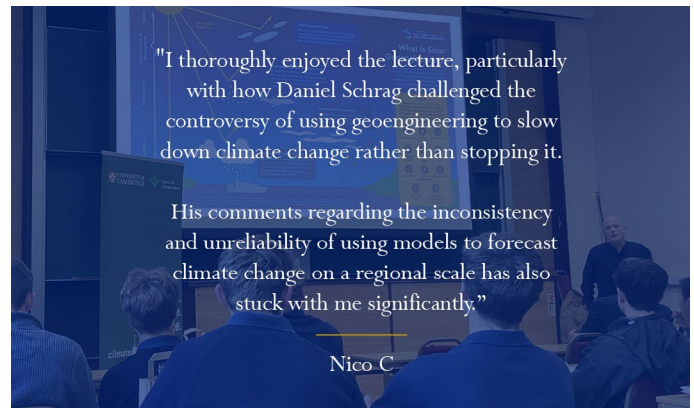
## TRIPS

### Attending Solar Radiation lecture

Drawing on the opportunities that come with being part of the Cambridge community, a group of Lower Sixth geographers and physicists visited the University's Engineering Department.

Attending a lecture by Harvard professor Daniel Schrag (former advisor to President Obama and Director of the Harvard University Center for the Environment), they explored the opportunities and uncertainties of Solar Radiation Management, and why they matter for science, policy and society.

Read through to discover what our pupils took away from the experience.

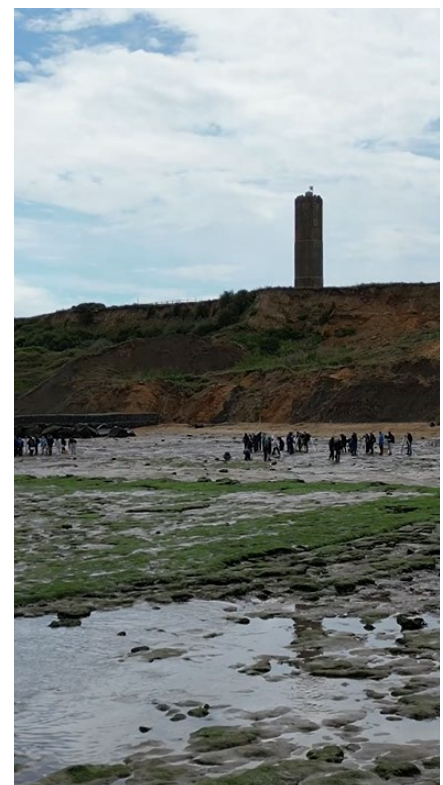


### Geography field trip to Walton on the Naze

Year 10 pupils had a fantastic day at Walton on the Naze recently. They collected primary data for their GCSE physical fieldwork on coastal management and its effectiveness in controlling longshore drift.

Despite wet and windy weather, they showed resilience and enthusiasm in applying classroom knowledge, working collaboratively and developing valuable fieldwork skills - bringing geography to life.

[Watch the video](#)



# SPORT

## National Schools' Regatta

The end of May saw pupils from The Leys attend the National Schools' Regatta - an occasion that brings together crews from across the country in a spirit of competition and camaraderie. Competing in warm conditions, our pupils showed great enthusiasm throughout their races, fully embracing the challenge. The experience proved both rewarding and memorable, as reflected in the positive feedback received from pupils and parents alike.



## Aline Selected to Represent Cambridgeshire in Dressage

A huge congratulations to Aline HT on being selected to represent Cambridgeshire at the British Dressage Inter County Challenge.

This milestone follows an outstanding run of success, including first-place finishes in both British Riding Club Dressage qualifier tests, securing her place at the National Championships this September. She also took home the trophy for Best Dressage Test of the Year at their awards ceremony.



How does it feel being selected to represent Cambridge in the competition?

Being selected to represent Cambridge is an amazing opportunity and I feel very honoured. I am looking forward to being able to put my training and work into use and being in such an exciting environment.

How have you managed, pursuing your passion alongside academics?

I train as much as I can while balancing my school academic and co-curricular commitments. I feel very grateful that I have been given a lot of flexibility and support from The Leys in helping me achieve all my goals.

## SPORT

### Year 10 Take on Their Bronze DofE

Our Year 10 pupils have returned from a successful Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The group, of over 100 pupils, explored the area around Bakewell in the Peak District, tackling challenging wet and windy conditions with great determination. Despite the weather, it was a highly successful experience, creating lasting memories for the pupils.



## MUSIC AND DRAMA

### Robin of Sherwood 40th Anniversary

This week, we mark the 40th anniversary of our very own Director of Performance Drama, Cory Pulman, starring in Robin of Sherwood.

Written by Anthony Horowitz, Pulman appeared in the episode 'The Pretender,' playing the wicked Princess Isabella of Angoulême. Here she reflects on the show, alongside some thoughtful advice for those interested in pursuing a career in the industry.



Did you ever imagine Robin of Sherwood would still be celebrated 40 years on and what does the milestone mean for you?

*I knew when I did Robin of Sherwood that it was already a very successful series and had a big following, so am not surprised that it still has a big fan base today.*

*For me, it was one of my favourite ever television roles and because of the nature of the episode and the role, it has always been something I've been very proud of.*

What was it like playing Princess Isabella of Angoulême, stepping into such a bold, villainous role?

*It was a fantastic opportunity to be given a part which is a historically significant role, one that demanded courageous and specific acting choices, such as playing a viable rival to Patricia Hodge as Queen and taking relish in shooting the Pretender to the throne, in the back, with a crossbow bolt in a medieval abbey!*

What was it like working on a script by Anthony Horowitz?

*When I read the script, I was so thrilled to be working on this brilliantly written episode.*

*One of the main things that stood out for me, was that although Princess Isabella was in some ways a Machiavellian villain, albeit a very young one, the part was handled with a huge amount of humour in the writing, which gave me so much to work with and enjoy.*

*Coincidentally, I also had the pleasure to go on to do the first ever episode of Midsummer Murders: The Killings at Badger's Drift, also written by Anthony Horowitz.*



How has your experience on screen shaped the way you teach today?

*I was lucky to have some very strong comedic roles in television, theatre and radio. Comedy requires absolute specificity in the acting choices that you make, which is why it is my favourite genre to work on with young actors.*

*There is a saying in professional theatre, that if you can play comedy you can play anything, including tragedy, but not the other way around.*

What's the most rewarding part of working with young performers?

*It's giving them the belief that they can do anything in performance. Getting them to trust me and come with me on a journey which is all about 'telling the story.' To have the confidence and freedom to explore, then own their characters.*

*On top of that creative experience, to feel they have bonded with their fellow young performers and created a 'company' of generous young actors.*

What advice do you give pupils who want to work in the industry?

*Acting is an extremely hard business both to enter into and to establish a sustainable career. So, I always tell pupils, they really need to be passionate and more importantly hungry to give it a go.*

*Drama schools prefer pupils to have some maturity and life experience before joining, so I advise pupils to do a degree or other study first, if possible. There are also some amazing Drama foundation courses and undergraduate degrees which can be a great pathway into the profession.*

*It can be a wonderfully fulfilling profession in itself, but what people don't always recognise, is that Drama gives you a huge resource of transferable skills that are incredibly valuable in lots of other fields of work, including working as a team in challenging and ambiguous situations, the value of courage and commitment, working under pressure to absolute deadlines, and above all something we value at The Leys - generosity!*

“

**Drama gives you a huge resource of transferable skills that are incredibly valuable, including... something we value at The Leys - generosity!**

- Cory Pulman

## MUSIC AND DRAMA

### Jazz on Slater Court

On Friday, pupils enjoyed a Lunchtime Live session held outdoors on Slater Court. They had the opportunity to relax with friends, soak up the fresh air and listen to live jazz music performed by Jules Landymore and Friends.

[Watch the video here](#)



## MUSIC AND DRAMA

### Year 7 & 8 Showcase

Congratulations to the cast and crew of our Year 7 and 8 showcase. Taking to the stage, the pupils delivered an engaging and varied performance for their audience, including a rich mix of dance, musicals, and drama. With excerpts ranging from *The Lion King* to *Matilda*, the show was thoughtfully woven together with reflective questions that carried throughout the performance.



## MUSIC AND DRAMA

### Cabaret Evening

Congratulations to all the talented performers who took to the stage over two fantastic nights of our Summer Cabaret. Both evenings were a brilliant celebration of dance, music and comedy, and such a fitting way to mark the final week of term. A huge well done to everyone involved in making it such an enjoyable and memorable event.



## COMMUNITY LIFE

### Celebrating Our Staff

As we come to the end of term, we say goodbye to many; those who will start their well deserved summer holidays and to those who start their life beyond the School. A big thank you and good luck is extended to staff members who are leaving us at the end of this academic year, thank you for all your effort.



Ali Annett

Isabel Cushing

Katrina Evans

Oscar Davies

Sarah Bryne

Will McGinley

Dan Wilton

### Sally Paterson Retires

Today we marked the retirement of our Medical Centre Assistant, Sally Paterson. Colleagues gathered to wish her well and celebrate her 14 years of dedicated service to The Leys. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sally for her commitment to the School and wish her a happy, relaxing retirement.





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More Information

0203 424 5070

[info@lionssports.academy](mailto:info@lionssports.academy)

# What's On?

**Music Scholars' Concert | Friday 9 October | 13:00**

*Gt St Mary's*

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**Moulton Concert**

**Friday 9 October**

**18:45**

*Great Hall*

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**Year 11 Play: Romeo and Juliet**

**Wednesday 11 - Thursday 12 November**

**19:15**

*Great Hall*

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**Autumn Concert:**

**A Night at the Movies**

**Thursday 19 November**

**19:30**

*Great Hall*

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**Senior Play: The Government Inspector**

**Wednesday 2 - Friday 4 December**

**19:15**

*Great Hall*

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

The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD

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