



LGS Headlines - Feb 2017



Dear Parents

Welcome to the first full edition of Headlines for 2017.

Our school ethos is summed up in three sets of words; we seek to develop young people whose academic success is underpinned by being confident and well-rounded, creative and independent, responsible and caring. The theme of being responsible seems to underpin much of the content of this issue, with an emphasis on charity fundraising, community action and service to others.

There have been a number of activities, events and visits during the first half of the Spring Term and the news pages will point you towards further details of these. For each new item, there is a link which will take you to the students' account of the activity on the school website.

As we move through the Spring term our Year 11 and Year 13 students are beginning to focus on the final preparation for GCSE and A Level examinations. Parents of those in the lower year groups may not be fully aware of all the changes to the examination system which we have been implementing over the last two years, and we have included a brief overview of the new 'reformed' GCSEs and A Levels in this newsletter. Our staff will be working hard to support all those students preparing for public examination and we trust that this important period will prove productive and will build their confidence.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

LGS @ 60

2016-17 marks Langley Grammar School's 60th anniversary year. We have some celebratory events planned for the spring and summer, including a full whole-school photograph and reunion events for former students.

We are trying to build up a register of former students - and the further back we can go the better. If you attended this school yourself please email us via school@lgs.slough.sch.uk with your name and a contact email address so we can keep you informed of our plans. If you know anyone else who was at this school - particularly if they were here in the early days, please ask them to get in touch in the same way.

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Staff news

As you are probably aware, there are currently serious national and local shortages of teachers in several subjects, particularly Maths, Science and English. A small number of staff in these areas have moved on from the school in recent months and replacing them has been very difficult.

We are committed to recruiting the best available teachers to join us here at Langley Grammar School; this has meant some short-term changes and use of supply staff until suitable longer-term replacements were found.

In the last few weeks we have therefore welcomed the following new members of the teaching staff:

Ms Nooriya Abdoel to teach English.

Mr Stephen Bremner to teach English.

Mr Bassam El-Taki to teach Maths.

We are also delighted to welcome two new members of our support staff:

Mr Jean-Paul Markos has taken up a role as IT Network Manager. Mr Markos is employed by our IT support company but based full-time in the school.

Ms Natasha Oliver joins the team of lunchtime supervisors.



Responsible parking?

We have received a number of complaints from residents in local roads near to the school. The complaints are about dangerous driving, inconsiderate parking, and rudeness by parents when asked to move.



We have specifically received a number of complaints from residents of Langley Broom, off the main London Road.

We encourage students to be responsible and caring towards others and **it is not acceptable for parents – even if this is just a tiny minority - to damage the reputation of the school through their actions.**

We therefore urge parents to park with consideration towards the local residents and to respond politely if are asked to move their car. We will be making occasional checks and we will be reporting inconsiderate drivers to the police. We have also told local residents that they should also contact the police to report anyone who is causing a nuisance through their parking or their attitude.



A set of roadworks **in Langley** will affect travel to and from the school. You may be aware of a new housing development next to Langley College on Langley Road; work will start to install utilities and services, and ultimately to install a roundabout.

In order to do this, Spencer Road will be closed from its junction with Langley Road to the junction with Ives Road (which leads to Marish Primary School).

This closure was expected to start on 6 February but we are now informed that it will be in place before we return from the half term break. The closure is expected to last for five months.

Clearly there will be disruption to travel for anyone coming to school by car from that direction. Please find an alternative route or drop your son or daughter off further away from school and encourage them to walk the last part of the journey. There is also likely to be more pressure on other routes to the school - we would ask you to think carefully about the timing of your journey and where you arrange to drop or collect your son or daughter.



Responsible & caring

Congratulations to.....

- **Year 10 students** who achieved their **Sports Leader Awards**, presented recently in assembly.
- The **Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition students** who have completed a professional qualification in **Food Hygiene**.
- The following students who have completed their **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** this half term:



Year 13	Lahiru Tennakoon	Gold
Year 13	Oliver Way	Gold
Former Year 13	Tehreen Chaudhry	Gold
Year 12	Sam Garrett	Bronze
Year 12	Sukrit Neta	Bronze



Our students often officiate at local sports events as part of their Sports Leader awards. We were delighted to receive the following message from Eilish MacBean, the organiser of the recent **In2Hockey Tournament** for Year 5 and 6 pupils.

"As the schools' liaison officer for Berkshire Hockey Association I was invited to assist at the Slough Schools Partnership In2Hockey Tournament for Years 5 and 6 on Tuesday 31st January.

I was particularly asked to work alongside the young leaders. May I congratulate the students from Year 10 who came along to the tournament to serve as umpires. These young people were a real credit to Langley Grammar School.

They were courteous, cooperative, good humoured and very willing to accept advice. It was real pleasure to work with them. "

Charity fundraising

Langley Grammar School students have continued their fundraising drive. This term, Year 10 students ran a Charity Week with a range of activities and events, raising a fantastic

£1,093

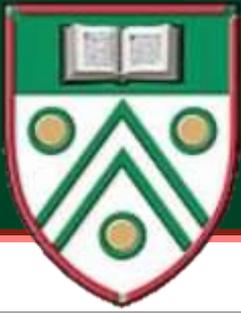
in aid their favourite charities. **Well done!**

Confirmed totals for other fundraising activities this year include:



Fighting disease,
poverty and prejudice





Making good progress

New GCSE courses update

Parents of students in Year 10 and above will be aware of the changes to the examination courses which have been introduced over the last two years.

The new 'reformed' GCSE courses were first introduced in September 2015. **Year 11** students are currently following reformed GCSE courses in Mathematics, English Language and English Literature.

The second wave of reformed GCSE courses was introduced in September 2016. Students in **Year 10** are currently following reformed GCSE courses in most subjects. Product Design, Textiles, Classical Civilisation and Business Studies are currently unreformed courses. Reformed GCSEs in these subjects will be introduced in September 2017.

What is the difference?

Reformed GCSEs are described by the Department for Education as more rigorous qualifications. They are assessed through examinations at the end of the course, with no 'controlled assessments'. Practical subjects such as Art, Drama or Music have an element of assessed coursework. In Science subjects and in geography, practical skills are developed through the course, but are tested with appropriate questions in the final examinations.

The reformed qualifications are graded on a 1-9 scale. Grade 4 is broadly equivalent to an unreformed GCSE grade C, and Grade 7 to a Grade A. Grade 9 rewards a standard of attainment above the current A* level. Grade 5 is being promoted by the Department for Education as the new 'good pass' grade, and looks set to become the acceptable baseline grade instead of the current Grade C.

What are the implications?

All schools across the country are getting used to the new GCSE courses. In many subjects, there are distinct advantages to the new specifications, although it is clear that standards are being raised.

Our subject leaders and teachers have had training from the examination boards, and have access to a range of resources to support the teaching. What we don't have is the knowledge of where grade boundaries will be drawn by the exam boards, and therefore exactly what standards are expected at each grade - but at the moment nobody does. Our aim is simply to support and equip students with the skills they will need to do as well as they possibly can in the examinations.



Sixth Form courses

Reformed A Level courses also started in September 2015 in around half of all A Level subjects. The second wave began in September 2016.

What is the difference?

The new reformed courses are linear two-year courses, with the grade determined by examinations at the end of Year 13. In some subjects, there is also an assessment of the practical skills. The courses are designed to be more rigorous and challenging for students. As with the GCSEs, there are distinct advantages to the new specifications in some subjects.

AS examinations are available in the reformed courses. However, these are effectively 'standalone' qualifications, and unlike the unreformed courses, the results do not count towards a full A Level qualification.

Which students are doing which courses?

Students in Year 13 are studying for a mixture of reformed and unreformed courses. They sat AS examinations in all their subjects at the end of Year 12. The unreformed AS outcomes will count towards their final A Level grades; the reformed AS grades have been used to inform predicted grades at the end of Year 13.

Students in Year 12 are studying mostly reformed course. The majority, who are currently studying four subjects, will drop one course at the end of Year 12, having sat an AS exam in that subject only. The only unreformed courses for Year 12 students are Maths and Product Design, which continue to have a modular AS + A2 format. The new reformed courses in these subjects commence in September 2017.



LGS News Headlines

Friendship in Music

Students from the school Jazz Band and FlexEmble performed in the annual 'Friendship in Music' concert involving Langley Grammar School, St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School and ACS Egham.

[Read more.....](#)



Year 10 Charity week

Year 10 charity week was once again a success, with students raising over £1000 through a wide range of activities.....

[Read more.....](#)



Year 12 Geography field trip to Northern Ireland

Year 12 geographers spent a week in Northern Ireland on their field studies course.....

[Read more.....](#)



Year 9 Careers Fair

Year 9 students visited the Slough Careers Fair as part of their careers guidance programme....

[Read more.....](#)





LGS News Headlines

Year 12 Oxbridge visit

As part of the school's Oxbridge pathway programme, 25 Year 12 students had the opportunity to visit Oxford for the day.....

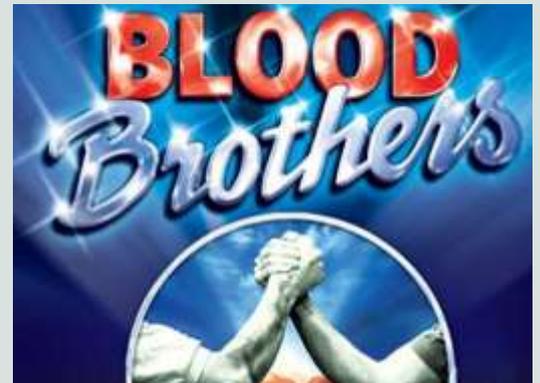
[Read more.....](#)



Blood Brothers theatre visit

GCSE and A Level Drama students attended an enthralling performance of Blood Brothers at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking.....

[Read more.....](#)



DofE visit to Heathrow Airport

Ten students working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award recently spent a day at Heathrow, enjoying a behind-the-scenes insight into one of the world's busiest airports....



Duke of Edinburgh Award celebration event

The success of students who achieved their Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards was marked at our second DofE celebration event of the autumn term in December....

[Read more.....](#)





Slough Youth Parliament

Slough's Youth Parliament ensures that young people in Slough are able to influence and be involved in decision making in the town. The Youth Parliament is made up of 11-19 year olds from across Slough, and includes members from underrepresented groups.

MYP's (Members of Youth Parliament) sit on a variety of strategic groups including the local Children & Young People's Partnership Board, Independent Police Advisory Group and the Well Being Board.

Slough's Youth Parliament sends a representative to the UK Youth Parliament, so that local young people can get involved in a National platform.



Calls to lower the voting age to 16 have been made by Slough Youth Parliament (SYP) members as part of a national campaign.

On Friday, January 20, Slough's Youth Parliament members Alaa Fawaz (Herschel Grammar School) and Faheem Anwar (LGS) met Slough's MP Fiona Mactaggart and successfully lobbied her support.

They are campaigning alongside almost 300 elected members of the UK Youth Parliament. Lowering the voting age was a key issue in the UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark campaign in November. SYP successfully lobbied Slough Borough Council (SBC) to support the cause in 2015.

Slough Borough Council commissioner for education and children's services Cllr Sabia Hussain said: "We are very proud of our youth parliament and their commitment to improving the rights of young people. Our members are creating a brighter future for Slough, and we will continue to work with them to ensure their voice is heard."

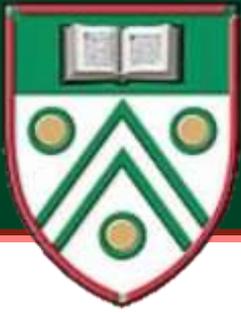
Thank you to Faheem Anwar for his hard work and commitment to the Youth Parliament.

Congratulations to Navin Vithana and Nico Ferrari, our two new Slough Youth Parliament members!

Slough Youth Parliament
Election Results 2017

Navin Vithana 9R
Nico Ferrari 10V

Slough Children and Young People's Partnership Board
Giving it right for children



YEAR 11 STUDENTS ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?



POWERED BY



NCS 2017 SUMMER PROGRAMME

The summer programme is a great way to spend part of your summer. It runs for approximately three weeks with various start dates in June, July and August.

Part 1: (residential) During Part 1 of the programme young people work together and get active - staying at a residential centre and taking part in a range of outdoor activities like abseiling, kayaking, hiking, rock-climbing and more.

Part 2: (residential) Working with a skills practitioner, young people gain skills in a particular area whilst discovering more about the local community.

Part 3: (non-residential) Is a chance for young people to make their mark! After meeting a charity or community organisation the team come up with ideas for a project to make a difference before having the chance to present their project to a panel of professionals and gain feedback.

To find out more, visit www.ncsthechallenge.org



Our ethos

We seek to develop young people whose academic success is underpinned by being.....



Confident and well-rounded

...demonstrating a positive mindset; secure in their own identity and aware of their own strengths; effective and persuasive communicators; believing in their own self-worth, with a broad and balanced outlook; striving for excellence in all they do; resilient and willing to persevere.



Independent and creative

...able to think critically and make wise decisions; curious and inquisitive; eager to explore and discover; willing to make mistakes and embrace challenges that may at first appear daunting; adaptable and flexible; innovative and enterprising.



Responsible and caring

...grounded in sound ethical and moral values; socially and culturally aware; recognising and appreciating diversity; having the courage to stand up for what is right; acting with kindness and compassion to bring out the best in themselves and others; engaged in communities with a local, national and global outlook.