



LGS Headlines

October 2022



Dear Parents

As we approach the half term break we can reflect on an exhausting few weeks....!

We returned from the summer break in September to a new Prime Minister, whose term of office will now come to an end when we return from the half term break after a period of some turbulence in our political life. The death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III were long expected but still a shock when the moment came. These unprecedented national circumstances, when we are still recovering from the impact of the pandemic, have been unsettling for many but have also provided us with a rich source of discussion in school.

The start of the autumn term is an opportunity to welcome students back into school and to support them as they start the next stage or phase in their journey through the school. It has been a pleasure to see the Year 7 students starting their secondary education, and for our staff to help them find their way around, get themselves organised, and start exploring all the opportunities they have available in this school. Our Year 12 students have started their A Level courses with confidence based on the excellent GCSE outcomes they obtained, and we have welcomed a large group of new joiners from other schools who have settled in well. We currently have over 200 students in Year 12 - more than our target number - and we are so pleased that so many students feel this is the right place to continue their education.

We are delighted to see that our students' GCSE and A level outcomes have led to us having the highest progress and attainment scores in the area. Although direct comparisons with other schools should be treated with caution as experiences following the pandemic will differ, we are pleased to confirm that those outcomes are significant ahead of many comparable schools.

We have planned this year as a 'normal' one in terms of the range of activities we are expecting to offer. This includes a full programme of educational visits across different year groups. We are planning for musical events, drama productions, and a wide range of team sports. After the half term break we will be giving the House system a 'reboot' and arranging a number of house-based events through the rest of the year. We very much hope that all our students will gain from being involved in these activities.

As always in this newsletter you will see some examples of activities which have been taking place. This simply scratches the surface of what has been a very busy term. As always, I would recommend that you follow our Twitter account for regular insights and updates.

With best wishes

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on 01753 598300 or email school@lgs.slough.sch.uk.

Your query will be passed on to the most appropriate member of staff.

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Please visit our website at

www.lgs.slough.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter @lgs_news


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



Access to the school

As part of our rebuilding and site improvement work we have now installed new gates at the front of the school. This will provide us with enhanced security and access control.

Here are the things you need to know as parents.....

Vehicle access

There are new main vehicle gates at the front of the school. These are electrically operated and will remain closed during the school day. They will be opened to allow access to the Sports Centre in the late afternoon and evenings.

There is **no parking for parents on the school site.** Under normal circumstances, you should park on the road and use the pedestrian gates if you are coming into the school.

Please contact us if there are particular circumstances which will require you to drive onto the school site, for example to drop off or pick up a child who is on crutches.

Similarly, if you are disabled, have mobility issues or some other reason why you need to drive onto the school site, please contact us as we have disabled parking spaces available.

When exiting the site by car, the gates will automatically open as you approach them.



Pedestrian access

There are two sets of pedestrian gates, one on either side of the main vehicle gates. These will be open between 8.00am and 8.20am and from 3.15pm school to allow students to enter and leave the site.

The left-hand gates as you approach the school will remain locked during the school day. The right-hand set should be used if you are visiting the school.

The gates are access controlled. Please use the intercom to the right of the gate to call Reception and ask for access.

You should then go straight to the school Reception which is directly in front of you. All visitors to the school will be required to sign in and may be asked to wear a lanyard identifying them as a visitor if they are meeting members of staff.

To exit, please press the green button near the pedestrian gate and the gate will unlock. Please note that the pedestrian gates will not open automatically and will need to be opened by hand.

These additional measures will add some welcome additional security to our school site which it has not been possible to have before.





Open events

During this half term we have held a series of open events. Our **Open Evening** in September allowed prospective parents and their families to have a guided tour round the school and meet staff and students.

We have also held four **open mornings** in October to allow parents to see the school in action. We have been very proud of our student guides at all these events - but particularly those for open mornings who were usually asked to guide because their teacher was ill and they had a cover lesson! We have received lots of positive feedback about the students and their confidence in talking to visitors.

We have a **'Virtual open Event'** on our school website which may be of interest to prospective parents - please spread the word in your networks!



Phase 8/9 Shoebox Appeal

Year 8 and 9 have been busy this half term, working together to collate items to produce a shoebox for the charity Link to Hope. Lots of the students have been involved in knitting scarfs to put in their box.

The shoeboxes collected will be sent to Moldova (NE) and Romania (NE), Bulgaria (N) and the Ukraine (S & W) and will be given either to families or the elderly.

Well done to the form captains, who have been managing and leading this project with their forms.

Mr Badshah and I are looking forward to seeing all of the completed shoeboxes and delivering them to the distribution centre after half term.

Mrs Reid - Phase Leader





KS3 Drama Clubs

Year 7-9 Drama Clubs

The students in Year 7 Drama club and the students in year 8 & 9 Drama club have kicked off the first half term of the year exploring together, learning different Drama activities and getting to know new people. It has been great to see so many students getting involved on Wednesday and Monday lunchtimes respectively. Here are some images of Y8/9 Drama Club in action...





Slough Youth Orchestra



The Slough Youth Orchestra is a large community orchestra made up of students from local Slough schools. This year, the orchestra includes students from Upton Court Grammar School, St. Bernard's Catholic Grammar School, Langley Academy, and Ditton Park Academy, alongside students from Langley Grammar School.

The orchestra rehearses only two days and all students worked extremely hard last week, under the baton of maestro Tom Horn. Tom is an experienced conductor who works extensively with the Buckinghamshire Music Trust and directs many other local orchestras including the Pelly Concert Orchestra and the Marlow Orchestra. Tom has been the musical director of SYO since its inception in 2016. Students from Slough learned a lot from working with Tom over the 2 day rehearsal period.

The project culminated in a concert on Friday 14th October, with the orchestra playing a wide range of music from different styles and genres including Classical, Jazz and a selection of patriotic music to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth II. The concert was well-attended and the audience were highly complimentary of the standard reached by the orchestra. Well done to all the students involved, and keep a look out for the next Slough Youth Orchestra concert next term!



Year 8 Art

Year 8 students have been busy sketching teddy bears as part of the Still Life project. These pen drawings focus on using different mark making techniques to record tone and texture





Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Being part of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award was unforgettable experience, and truly once in a lifetime. It's fair to say that when we all pictured our expedition, it posed as torturous trudges through rock and snow, or fighting our body weight against the strong winds, and gladly enough the weather we got was nowhere near these extremities. In fact, I'd argue that all of us miss Snowdonia – the views we saw, the laughs we shared, and most importantly the challenges we overcame and celebrated together.

Arriving at the first campsite, energy and excitement was high. The campsite was beautiful sight and I remember groups of us wondering through and around the rustic stone walls and arches in the small but vast field. By the evening, when we all sat together at the diner, and around the fire,, nerves began to settle and reality hit harder as we thought about the journey we'd be undergoing the next couple of days – some more worried about that day being their last dinner on a plate more than anything! The nerves were fair enough, as we imagined what day 1 would look like – our longest and highest day. I would say – worth it. We started the walk gazing out to views of the sea, finding ourselves determined at the rocky peak of the mountain, and relieved at the wild campsite we spent out second night at. One thing I don't think will be missed is the wild toilets and the marshy grass. Nevertheless the sunset and sunrise from a valley like that was irreplaceable, and dinner that evening was probably the best I've ever had out of a bag.

Our encouragement for day 2 came from the lack of up-hill we could see on our maps, and actually day 2 was a brilliant day. The walk was enjoyable and the weight on our backs felt light, not to mention the last part of our walk which involved trailing along a river, which was a nice tangible way to see the progress we could make. The last hour of day 2 however, might have been the roughest part. It was the end of the day and we could see the sun setting as we were trudging through tall wet grass, while looking longingly around for neon green tents, when really I looked around and told myself 'we really are in the middle of nowhere' with just hills and hills in sight. Motivation was at its lowest, and even if we wanted to give up, we had to get to camp. The day peaked at the cheers we received arriving at camp. People came over high-fiving, talking to us about the journey, helping us unpack, and lightening our dampened moods.





Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Day 3 we finally got caught in some wet weather. The first part of the day consisted of walking through trees and rivers, and more discrete rather than vast fields, and one particularly long and steep uphill hidden within up-rooted trees. As the rain hit us, we found ourselves on concrete ground, walking through a lovely village, and through a last push of hills to find our last campsite, homely as ever. Granted setting our tents up in the rain wasn't the most fun, but it seemed very casual and comfortable, as if we had got used to green homes, just as we spent our last night in them. I remember sitting in my tent to avoid the rain, as we had time before cooking dinner, feeling very warm and suddenly very glad I was on DofE.

On our last day we set out before the sun had risen to the top of the sky, as we would look out to see a blue and yellow sky and a layer of fog sitting and hovering on the hills. Looking back, it seems like the perfect day to have been our last. It had the wet and soggy grass, the small and large streams, the uphill and downhill, the steady paths and the rocky ones. One particular downhill that seemed near vertical and lasting for hours, trying not to trip or slip on the way down, more nerve-racking than getting lost. For me it was a day of high motivation, but also of tire, thinking of the last push that was needed, for myself and for the team I was apart of. Our final part of our expedition was a soothing walk through a National Trust Park, alongside a lake, where we could see the orange and green bags waiting for us at the end.

I enjoyed my Gold expedition, and I could write and talk about endlessly – I would say the photos and writing about it doesn't do it justice. Although there were times our bags felt ten times heavier, our feet felt blistered and our legs were tired, there was always something or someone to act as a light at the end of the tunnel, whether it's Mr Podbury appearing over a hill to high-five you to your check point, or a team member singing a song to keep you going or get you laughing. It was an incredible experience, and a huge thank you to Mr Podbury for organising our expedition and helping us through our Duke of Edinburgh award journey, as well as the teachers Ms Curtlin and Miss Du Preez and assessors who were part of the adventure!





Year 9 Art

Year 9 students completed an “Alphabet Photography” task as part of a wider photography project. Students photographed letter shapes found hidden in the environment and used these to create a full alphabet along with some specific words, including some of our LGS ethos words!





Y10 Shakespeare Schools Festival Performance of 'Romeo & Juliet'

GCSE Drama students did very well in their all day SSF workshop with our visiting practitioner in October. The students workshopped a couple of scenes and developed their ensemble work.

Next half term on Tuesday 8th November, the cast will be performing 'Romeo & Juliet' at South Hill Park Arts Centre at 7pm.

For anyone interested in coming to watch, tickets for the general public can be purchased here: <https://www.southhillpark.org.uk/events/shakespeare-schools-festival/>





Year 10 Art

Visit to Kew Gardens

The Year 10 fine art, photography and textile students, along with the Year 12 fine art students enjoyed a visit to Kew Gardens. Students collected resources for current projects, made drawings and also visited a colourful art installation by Australian artist “Pip & Pop”





Biology Society are back with LGS Forensics!

James Mistry is history and it's a mystery...

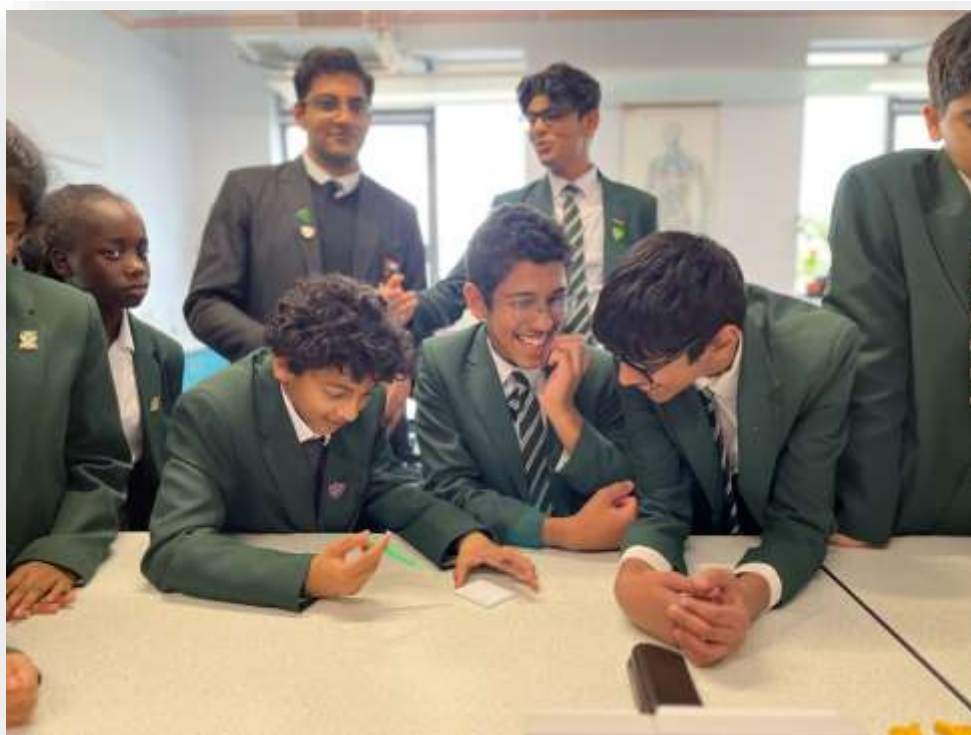
That is what our budding biologists had to work with when investigating this murder mystery. Of course that, and our brilliant subject fellows!

The Biology society was called to LGS forensics HQ (also known as Room 201) on a warm Thursday Lunch. The case was that off a wandering Year 13 student who was found dead at Flatford Mills. We, with the help of the wonderful Ms Wan, designed an electrophoresis experiment to compare the DNA samples extracted from James' coat against those collected from our suspects (who were definitely not teachers!). By analysing the charged DNA and comparing it's different components – the team realised that, although the case for each suspect was particularly convincing, none matched James' DNA! However, this did lead them to another vital clue and they were tasked with cracking two anagrams using their expert biological knowledge...

Finally, all was revealed – it had turned out James Mistry had taken a fault compass to Snowdonia on his DofE trip... somehow confusing North with South West and ending up helpless in a salt marsh

It taught us an important lesson (besides checking your compass)...

“ Science is not always right” – and has been shown throughout history ; we may accept everything for what it is on the basis of science... **but always think twice and for yourself!**





From Twitter




These pages showcase a small sample of the school activities which are publicised through Twitter. We now have accounts for PE, Art and Drama in addition to the main account **@lgs_news**

To find out more and keep up with what is happening in school from day to day, please follow our Twitter accounts.

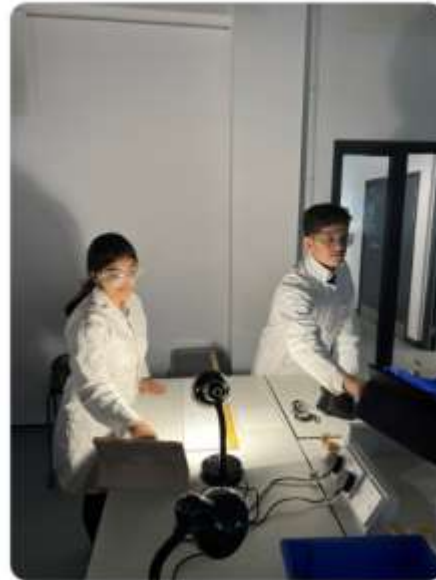




From Twitter



 **Langley Grammar School @lgs_news** · Oct 18
Late update from last Friday - we were really pleased to welcome students from @StBernardsCGS @LangleyAcademy and @UCGSchool to @slough_music Youth Orchestra rehearsals last week, and performance on Friday evening - an amazing display of musicianship, collaboration and fun!




 You Retweeted
 **LGS Biology @BiologyLgs** · Oct 14
Studying the rate of photosynthesis, having come up with their own method. Well done guys. @lgs_news




 You Retweeted
 **Langley Grammar PE @LGSPE** · Oct 17
Great to give some new faces an opportunity to represent LGS and kick start the Year 10 cup campaign with an excellent 7-1 win this evening.

 Ram x 4, Aryan, Aman, OG
 Ram



 **Langley Grammar PE @LGSPE** · Oct 11
Year 11 Netball...2nd place in the Slough schools tournament. Well played g/lris. MVP Nana



 **Langley Grammar School @lgs_news** · 1h
Delighted to welcome more than 50 teachers from Tinnjønn and Flakaa schools in Norway! Our digital leaders are busy showcasing how we use Apple technology to support students' learning. apple.com/uk/education/k



 **Langley Grammar School @lgs_news** · 4h
Our Norwegian visitors are meeting our 'Jedi' staff to hear more about our use of technology for learning.

