

# LGS Headlines - Dec 2017



Dear Parents

I am writing this at the end of the term, just after the students and the great majority of staff have finished school to begin a well-deserved break.

Year 11 students can relax and enjoy the break after having completed their practice examinations - and I hope they feel confident they did their best based on the preparation they were able to do. We wish Year 13 students well as they take their practice examinations in January - and we hope they will strike the right balance of work and time for friends, family and themselves over the holiday. As a parent myself of a Year 13 student preparing for his 'mocks', I can understand how it feels.

As well as student news, this edition of Headlines contains some important updates, particularly about our building project - I hope this is useful for you.

I wish you and your families a very enjoyable and relaxing break, a happy Christmas, and a healthy and fulfilling New Year ahead.

***Mr J Constable - Headteacher***

## **Message from the Chair of Governors**

Dear Parents

On behalf of the Governing Board I would like to thank those of you that took part in the Governor Parents' Survey. We have now completed analysis of the results and are pleased to tell you that overall the responses were very positive and reassuring for us as a Governing Board. A small number of parents indicated some level of dissatisfaction in a very small number of areas. We have ensured that the Senior Leadership Team are aware of these and are working to address these going forward. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you have specific concerns you should raise them with the relevant member of staff in the first instance so that an early resolution can be reached.

We hope that your sons and daughter are all looking forward to a well earned rest over the holidays and will return at the start of the new term refreshed and ready to learn again.

On behalf of the Governing Board I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

***Roma Garrett - Chair of Governors***

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## Staff update

We have said goodbye to a small number of staff at the end of this term.

**Mrs Lisa Taylor** has left the support staff for family reasons (positive ones!) after ten years as our Finance Officer, looking after all the money we receive for trips, visits and other activities, charity fund raising and through the community operation of the Sports Centre.

**Mr Matt Hungerford** taught in the science department on short-term supply since October. His post has been filled permanently from January.

**Mr David Close** has taught at LGS since 2008 and has been Subject Leader for PE & Sport since 2012. He is relocating to Kent and taking up a similar role at Rainham Mark Grammar School in Rainham.

**Mrs Zahara Chowdhury** has taught English at LGS for five years taking on the role of Assistant Subject Leader in 2014, and Subject Leader in the autumn of 2016. She is following a long-standing interest and taking her career in a completely new direction, specialising in personal training, health and wellbeing. We wish her well in this exciting new venture!

**In January we will welcome the following appointments to the staff.....**

**Dr Iwona Rentflejsz** as our new Subject Leader for English. Dr Rentflejsz is currently second in English at Newlands Girls School in Maidenhead and has an exceptionally strong academic background in English Literature.

**Mrs Neeta Dhillon** as a permanent teacher of Biology. Ms Dhillon is currently teaching at Haydon School in Pinner.

**Mr Paul Kimberley** will be teaching PE on a supply basis.

We will be advertising for a new Subject Leader for PE in the New Year. In the meantime the PE department will be directly managed by Mr Adams, Assistant Headteacher.

## LGS in the Sunday Times 'Parent Power' tables

Some parents will be aware of the Sunday Times publication 'Parent Power' which ranks schools on the basis of their combined A Level and GCSE results.

**We were delighted to be ranked in the top 80 schools in the country in this table.**



## Responsible and caring

**Year 7 students** have raised an amazing.....

**£4,488**

for LEPROA through their recent Zumbathon and other activities. This is the largest sum ever raised by a single year group for a charity event !

### **Well done Year 7!**

In addition this term, **Year 11 students** raised

**£1,155**

for Children in Need as part of their personal and citizenship studies.

Our **non-uniform day** on 19th December also raised

**£1,763**

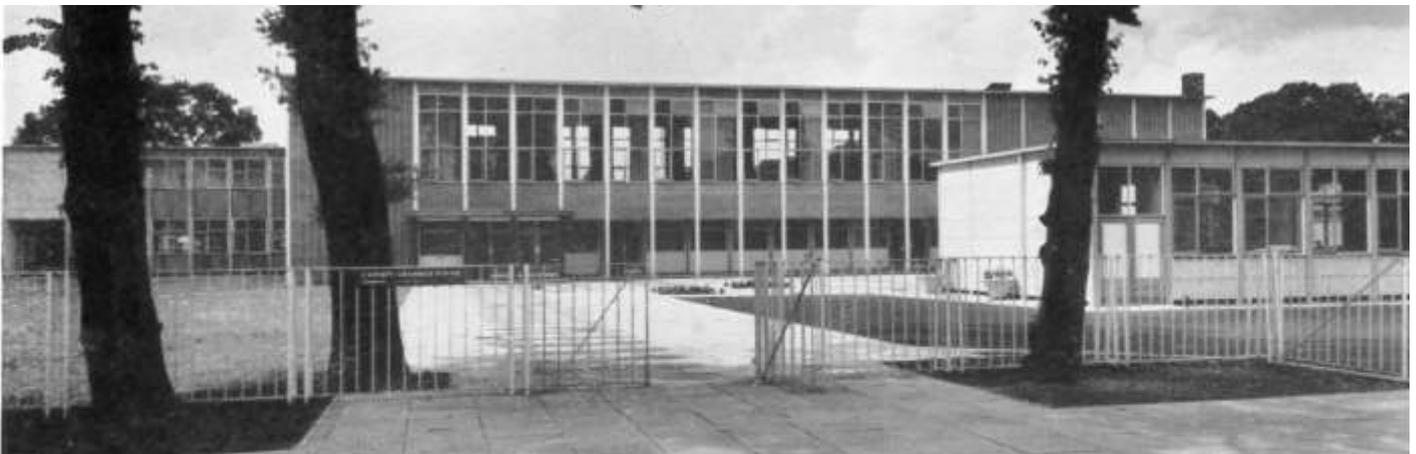
to support children in Yemen and in Myanmar and Bangladesh through the Disasters Emergency Committee.



# Building update

Parents may well remember that the school was accepted on to the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) in early 2015. The programme aims to rebuild or replace individual buildings (blocks) in 277 schools, and is managed through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), part of the Department for Education.

Our inclusion in the programme was based on the underlying structural condition of the main '1956' buildings, which form the original school. Built to an experimental design in 1956, the building suffers from forms of concrete decay which cannot be treated, and remedial measures such as steel props have had to be installed in a number of places to strengthen the structure.



The PSBP project will see the entire 1956 buildings demolished and replaced with new state of the art accommodation, with sufficient rooms to accommodate the increasing numbers in the school as our expansion works through.

The work will proceed in several stages. Firstly, we expect to build a new teaching block on the current hard court area at the back of the school to include accommodation for Science, Art, Computing/ICT and Design Technology (Product Design & Graphics), together with some non-specific general classrooms.

When this block is complete and in use, we will set up temporary accommodation for the dining facilities, library, administrative offices etc. The old 1956 buildings will then be demolished, and a new block built at the front of the school to include a new Main hall, library, Dining room, kitchen & servery, Reception, administrative and support staff offices. Lastly, the temporary accommodation will be removed, the hard courts replaced, and the site landscaping completed.

Overall, the project is expected to cost **just under £16 million** and is funded mainly by the government with some additional support from Slough Borough Council.

## What happens now?

The DfE are currently appointing a building contractor. To do this, they are selecting two preferred bidders from a contractor framework list who will work with us early next term to develop an initial design for the buildings which will form the tender submission. The successful contractor will then further develop that design with us.

## When will work start?

We are currently expecting to start work on the first phase in July 2018 after the summer examination season. The new teaching block will take about a year to complete, and the whole project is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2020.



# Photography Competition

This term's photography competition run by the Art Department was on the theme of 'Architecture'.

We have chosen three equal winners - but well done to all those who submitted entries.



Maanav, Year 12

Rajvir, Year 11



Osman, Year 12





# Recent website articles

## Year 7 Pantomime visit

Year 7 students visited the Wycombe Swan Theatre in High Wycombe to watch a performance of Jack & the Beanstalk as part of their studies of pantomime in Drama

[Read more....](#)



## Senior House Drama

Year 10 to 13 students watched the annual Senior House Drama competition, with performances from the Year 10s, Year 11s and Sixth Form in each House.

[Read more....](#)

## Year 8 Talk the Talk

Students in Year 8 took part in an oracy workshop, helping to develop their skills in Public Speaking.

[Read more....](#)



## Year 9 History visit

Year 9s visited the old RAF airbase at Duxford as part of their studies of the First World War.

[Read more....](#)



# Recent website articles

## Year 12 Mock United Nations

Year 12 students worked in teams to make presentations about how the United Nations could decide on which countries to prioritise for funding development projects.

[Read more....](#)



## Year 7 rocket cars take off...

Can you make a rocket car out of foam? This is what Year 7 students did on the first of day of a two-part project to build and race model rocket cars.

[Read more....](#)

## Year 9 Geography visit

Year 9 students visited Canary Wharf and the Olympic Park in Stratford to conduct geographical fieldwork on urban regeneration.

[Read more....](#)



## Year 8 English visit

To provide some gory historical context to their study of gothic literature, Yr 8 students visited the London Dungeon.

[Read more....](#)



# Online safety update

## Live streaming: a guide for parents

### 1. What is Live Streaming?

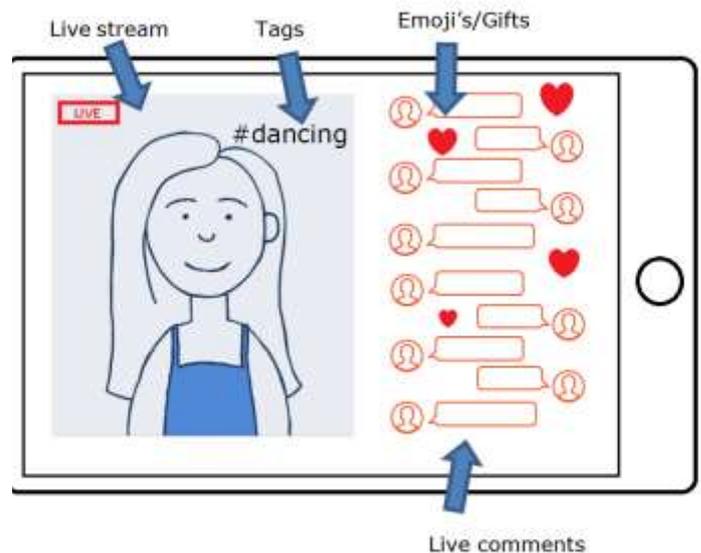
Live streaming, sometimes known as “going live”, is the broadcasting of live videos over the internet. Videos are unedited and are viewed in real time - similar to live TV. Live streaming is highly appealing to children and young people and the popularity of live streaming platforms is continuing to rise.

At the click on a button, a person can live stream to a potentially huge audience - all they need is an internet enabled device and a platform.

Many of the most popular apps like Instagram and Snapchat have a Live feature where the device's camera can stream to the user's followers and others that have searched for anyone 'live' in a particular area or that matches a certain description.

Viewers can comment and interact live by posting messages that appear beside the live stream. Viewers will often compliment the user or direct them to do other things.

Users can also be encouraged to perform certain actions, some of which may be risky by being offered 'likes' or other signs of encouragement such as 'hearts'.



As the name implies, live streaming is live, which means there is no opportunity to edit or think critically about the content before it's posted online. Anyone with a camera-enabled device and access to the internet can create and share a live video. This can make live videos unpredictable and very difficult to moderate; it is possible for young people to see inappropriate content that could shock or upset them - even if they didn't initially set out to watch that type of video.

### 2. What are the risks?

- Young people at secondary school have brains that are still developing and this can be linked to increased risk-taking. Unfortunately adults that they may meet online can exploit this natural curiosity and risk-taking by talking about sex and other age inappropriate matters.
- Young people can feel more confident to do things online that they may not necessarily do in real life. They may, for example, feel more confident to explore sex and relationships online than in the 'real world'. Young people can also feel invisible online, saying or doing things that they wouldn't do in real life.
- Children may not see live streams as things that someone could record and pass on. This could lead to a 'false sense of security' where young people may be manipulated into doing something on live streaming that they would not do for a photo.
- Live streaming is 'in the moment' and there could be a tendency for young people to do things in the heat of the moment and act on impulse without thinking of the consequences.
- Lots of positive comments and compliments can make young people feel good. Live streaming platforms allow users to 'gift' emoji's such as love hearts and coins and young people can be manipulated into doing things through flattery and the promise of gifts.



# Online safety update

## Live streaming: a guide for parents

### 3. Some practical advice to parents

There are a lot of practical things you can do to help keep your son or daughter safe if they are using an app or websites with a live streaming functionality.

- Try to maintain open conversations with your son or daughter about their internet use – talk to them about what they are doing online, what they are enjoying, what they are learning and the new apps they have discovered. Being engaged as a parent about the positive aspects of going online and not just the risks will help your son or daughter to talk more openly about their internet use - including anything that worries them. Having these discussions little and often is more effective than having ‘one big chat’.
- Remind your son or daughter to be wary of people they meet online who want to chat to them privately. Talk about the dangers of them being asked to move to private platforms to chat. Here, offenders are able to have private conversations that are likely to be less moderated.
- Talk to your son or daughter about how adult offenders often use tricks and dares to coerce young people into performing acts that may involve nudity on camera. Sometimes they may be offered online gifts or ‘likes’ in exchange for videos. It is important to remind young people that if someone asks them to remove clothing or do anything sexual, they should come off-line immediately. Encourage them tell an adult and report it.
- Whilst live streaming can be fun, it’s important to affirm to young people that live videos posted on the internet can remain there far into the future. They can be recorded, screen shot and shared without permission. Encourage your son or daughter to think carefully about what they choose to stream if they decide to go live. When something is live, young people can be more susceptible to acting on impulse - doing something ‘in the moment’ they might later regret.

### 4. Some live streaming apps to look out for

	Live.me		Live.ly		Musical.ly
	YouNow		Periscope		

### 5. Some useful links

Thinkuknow live streaming guide: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/)

Thinkuknow social media guides: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/How-to-guides](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/How-to-guides)

NSPCC Net Aware: [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)