



LGS Headlines

September 2021



Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of the new school year! I would like to particularly welcome all parents who are joining the Langley Grammar School community this term. We are very pleased to welcome new students into Year 7, Year 12, and a small number to some other year groups.

Students will be returning to school over the next three school days, beginning with Year 7 and Year 12 on Friday 3rd September. Years 10, 11 and 13 return on Monday 6th September and Years 8 and 9 on Tuesday 7th September. Further details about the return arrangements can be found in this newsletter and on the school website.

As we start the new term with two staff training days, we are delighted to welcome new members of our teaching and support teams, and particularly two new senior colleagues who join the Senior Leadership Team. Full details are given on the next page.

There has been much media speculation about the potential impact of reopening schools in September, and some of you may be viewing the prospect with some anxiety. I think we are 'cautiously optimistic' about the start of this new school term. Cautious because Covid remains very much with us despite the lifting of the remaining restrictions by the Government earlier this summer, and we still need to work with systems of infection control. Further details of those measures are in this newsletter. Nevertheless, we are very optimistic about what lies ahead this year as we return to something approaching normal school operation, and see the completion of our building project with all the new facilities that provides for us. We are looking forward to re-establishing our normal programmes of activities, visits and extracurricular provision, although we do need to proceed carefully and ensure that we do no compromise health and safety considerations by doing so.

Unfortunately, the construction work on the school site is not *quite* finished yet, and we have around three more weeks until the external works are completed. In addition, there are some delays to the final fitting out of some parts of the new main building due to circumstances beyond our control. Despite this, I think we can regard bringing in an £18 million development project during an international pandemic with only a five week delay as something of a success! Once the builders have finished in late September, I look forward to being able to welcome you into the school to view the new facilities - we will be holding a series of open sessions when you can come and look round.

We look forward to seeing your sons and daughters again, and wish you and your families well for the school year ahead.

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

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Welcome to new staff

At the start of the Autumn term we are delighted to welcome a number of new staff to the school.....

We have two new members of the Senior Leadership Team:

- ◇ **Mr Ashley Johnson** joins us as **Deputy Headteacher** to succeed Mr Adams. Mr Johnson has previously held senior roles at Langley Academy and Herschel Grammar School.
- ◇ **Mr Gary Botha** joins us as our new **School Business Manager following Mr Trigg's retirement.** Mr Botha has extensive previous operational school leadership experience in South Africa.

There are a number of new members of the teaching staff:

- ◇ **Mr Dan Brummell** - Subject Leader for Geography
- ◇ **Mr Zain Bux** - English
- ◇ **Mrs Megan Campbell** - Maths
- ◇ **Ms Carrie Chan** - Economics
- ◇ **Dr Adam Coggins** - Science
- ◇ **Ms Ellie Demuth** - Maths
- ◇ **Mr Ali Haidaree** - Science
- ◇ **Mr Kristan Swain** - Music.

We would particularly like to welcome back.....

- ◇ **Mrs Neelkamal Sihota** - who rejoins the Maths team after relocating back from India. Mrs Sihota was previously the Assistant Subject Leader for Maths until she left us in July 2016.

We also welcome to our support staff team....

- ◇ **Mrs Baljit Dosanjh** - joining the Sixth Form team as Sixth Form Administrator
- ◇ **Mrs Maria Fernandez** - joining the pastoral support team as Years 7-11 Phase Administrator
- ◇ **Mr Abd-Ur-Rahman Khan** - Design Technology assistant
- ◇ **Ms Sue Watson** - TSH Berkshire Teaching School Hub administrator

Please join us in wishing our new members of staff well as they take up their new roles.



Autumn term 2021

Autumn term return to school

The revised guidance for the new school year from the Department for Education requires us to offer on-site asymptomatic Covid-19 testing as students return to school. This requires us to operate a staggered start to the term. The confirmed plans are as follows.

Day	Year groups returning to school in school	In-school asymptomatic Covid-19 testing
Wednesday 1st September Thursday 2nd September	Staff training days No students in school.	Testing for staff only
Friday 3rd September	Year 7 & Year 12 induction	Years 7 & Year 12
Monday 6th September	Years 10, 11 and 13	Years 10, 11 & 13
Tuesday 7th September	Year 8 & Year 9	Year 8 & Year 9
Wednesday 8th September	All year groups now back	Years 7 & Year 12
Thursday 9th September	All year groups now back	Years 10, 11 & 13
Friday 10th September	All year groups now back	Years 7 & Year 12

Timings of the school day

In September we are expecting the timings of the school day to return to normal, with just some minor changes to the lesson timings during the day to facilitate movement around the school. The new timings are shown below.

Structure of day	Timings
AM registration	8.20 – 8.50 am
Period 1	8.50 – 9.50 am
Movement time	9.50 – 9.55 am
Period 2	9.55 – 10.55 am
Break	10.55 – 11.15 am
Period 3	11.15 – 12.15 pm
Movement time	12.15 – 12.20 pm
Period 4	12.20 – 1.20 pm
Lunch	1.20 – 2.15pm
Period 5a	2.15 – 3.15 pm

Infection controls

The Department for Education has issued guidance for schools for implementation in the Autumn term.

There are four key aspects to the 'system of controls' required by Public Health. These are:

- ☑ **Ensure good hygiene** for everyone - hand washing or sanitization, and good respiratory hygiene.
- ☑ Maintain **appropriate cleaning** regimes - to include more frequent regular cleaning of 'touch points' such as door handles.
- ☑ Keep occupied spaces **well ventilated** - by opening classroom windows and doors and maintaining good air circulation.
- ☑ Follow **public health advice** on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community.



Autumn term 2021

How will school be operating?

In line with Government guidance we are returning to something resembling 'normal' school operation this term., but with the system of controls outline on the previous page in place.

Students will be expected to.....

- ⇒ Wash and sanitise their hands regularly.
- ⇒ Follow good respiratory hygiene practice for coughs and sneezes - "catch it, kill it, bin it".
- ⇒ Take two lateral flow Covid tests in school at the start of term to check for asymptomatic Covid cases.
- ⇒ Ensure they do not come into school if unwell, and particularly if exhibiting Covid symptoms.
- ⇒ Carry out regular Covid testing at home using the lateral flow test kits distributed by the school.

We will also be implementing other aspects of the system of controls, including additional regular cleaning, and ensuring that classrooms and other spaces are well-ventilated.

Depending on their year group, students may be asked to bring PE kit with them to school to change into, or may be asked to come to school already in their PE kit. This will be to reduce pressure on the changing rooms - students will be told what the arrangements are before their first PE/games lesson.

Are there any bubbles or separate social areas?

Students will be able to move freely around the school site during break and lunch and will not be confined to specific separate social areas.

We are reverting to the normal pattern of having subject staff based in specific rooms and students moving round the school - we have included some movement time in the school timings to help with this.

What about face coverings?

Face coverings are no longer recommended in Government guidance for schools. However, we know that students and staff may wish to continue wearing them in school as a courtesy to others and for their own reassurance. This is a matter of personal choice.

Students **are** advised to wear face coverings if they travel on public transport, school buses and shared taxis, or with people they do not normally mix with.

What happens if there is a positive Covid case in school?

If a student starts to demonstrate Covid symptoms while in school, we will immediately isolate them and contact their parents to come and take them home. They will be advised to get a PCR Covid test as quickly as possible.

If a student tests positive for Covid, through a PCR test, any contact tracing will be handled by NHS Test and Trace, possibly asking the school for help in confirming close contacts. Any other students identified as close contacts will not have to self isolate but will be asked to book a PCR test as soon as possible.

If there are a number of positive cases in school, we will seek advice from the public health authorities. In the case of an extensive outbreak, the public health authorities might impose some temporary local measures such as the reintroduction of face coverings.



New building and site update

As you will know, we took possession of the new main building at the very end of the summer term and the new facilities will provide a fantastic environment for students.

As is inevitable under the current situation with the combined effects of the pandemic and Brexit, there have been delays to the snagging, defect resolution and delivery of furniture for the new block. As a result some areas are not quite ready for use yet. Some specific implications are...

- ⇒ We have reduced seating capacity in the Dining Room for the first two weeks of term until a delayed furniture delivery arrives.
- ⇒ We are not yet able to accommodate two year groups into the hall for assemblies.
- ⇒ The Library will not be in use until the week commencing 14th September.

We expect these issues to be resolved quickly.

Externally, the remaining netball and tennis courts are under construction and various other elements of groundworks are being completed over the next three weeks.

We are still expecting all construction works to be completed by Tuesday 21st September.

There will be opportunities for parents to see the new buildings for themselves during the autumn term; these will be arranged after all construction work is complete.

Over the coming term we will be discussing with staff and students how to make the best use of our new facilities. This will include considering what additional outdoor seating and shelter we need to provide.

If you are visiting the school for any reason, please note that we will not have any visitor parking until the external works are complete later in September. Please park considerately in the local area. You can access the school through the main Reddington Drive gates, and Reception is on your right as you enter the main building.





LGS Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents who responded to our survey at the start of the summer holiday. The overall picture was very positive and the comments provided will help us plan effectively for the autumn term series of parental briefings.

We know we will not have got everything right over the last year or so, but it was very encouraging to read comments like these

“The team at LGS has been amazing, understanding and supportive! Keep up the excellent work.”

“During this pandemic and these lockdowns, you as a school have overall tried very hard to keep the children being able to learn even through the hard times and we appreciate that.”

“Support through the challenging times and ensuring the quality of studies remain consistent is commendable.”

“I have been impressed with the communication from the school through the last year, also how quickly the school put together Home Schooling for the children and the smooth return for the children back to school”

“Overall, I am hugely impressed by the provision and support the school provided for my child.”

A number of helpful comments, observations and requests were also made which will help us improve what we do. In particular.....

- ⇒ We have noted the wish of many of you for a return to the **wide provision of additional activities** which we ran before the pandemic. This is very much part of the school's ethos and we are planning for a return to a full programme of clubs, activities and educational visits during his year.
- ⇒ A number of you are concerned about **mental health and wellbeing** - this is definitely an area we will be addressing this year as we work to support students across all age groups.
- ⇒ We know that many parents would like more regular and detailed **information** about their child's progress. While we understand this, it is simply not possible for teachers to provide the level of feedback that some parents would wish for.
- ⇒ Opinions were divided about online **Parent Teacher Consultations**. Some of you really like them, particularly for the convenience of not having to travel into school. Others of you do not like the format. Unfortunately it is going to be difficult to find a format that pleases everyone.
- ⇒ Some of you would like more information about the **topics** your children are studying. We will be seeking to increase the amount of information provided to you, but parents do need to be aware that subject areas will adapt their planning during the year in response to the needs of the students.

We will say more about some of these issues at the series of parents' information briefings which will be held during the first part of this term.

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter at [@lgs_news](https://twitter.com/lgs_news) for regular updates on what is happening in school.....



Consultation on Relationships and Sex Education

Thank you to those parents who responded at the start of the summer holiday to our consultation on the school's Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

Your comments have influenced some minor changes to the policy, and the final version will be published on the school website in the next few days.

We will be sharing more information about the school's approach to the teaching of relationships and sex education during the series of autumn briefings for parents which are held for each year group. This year we would want to ensure that you are supported to be able to have conversations with your children at home about the topics we are discussing in school.

Parents are very welcome to contact us at any stage to ask more about particular topics being taught or the materials used. A number of you have done that in the past and the discussions have been very productive.

If you wish to raise any issues with us, please contact us via school@lgs.slough.sch.uk and we will put you in touch with the appropriate member(s) of staff.

The Listening Project

Towards the end of the summer term we launched our 'Listening Project'. This is one part of our response to the concerns about sexual harassment and casual sexism raised by current and former students in schools across the country, including ours.

Students were able to book conversations with teachers who had been specifically trained in the aims of the project. A number came forward and the conversations were very informative. At this stage of the project, most - but certainly not all - of the students who were involved were girls, and some of the things they told us aligned with the experiences of girls across the country.

As parents, you can help us - and all our students - address some of the issues of sexism and misogyny in two specific ways. The key thing is to open up conversations with your child. If your child is female, encourage her to tell us about her experiences and particularly about any unacceptable behaviour she encounters from others. If your child is male, talk to him about the equality of women and how to ensure that they are treated with respect.

We will be continuing the project this term to give students the opportunity to tell us about the issues that are important to them and how we can help them deal with them. We will be widening the scope of the conversations to look at other issues including the experience of prejudice based on race, religion or sexuality.

Why are we doing this?

We believe that these issues are very important to our students and they need to be listened to. By encouraging open and transparent discussion, we are seeking to understand the range of issue they are dealing with, so that we can help and support them more effectively.

In relation to the issues we have been exploring, we have included again on the next page the letter from the community of Slough secondary schools in response to the Ofsted report on sexual harassment in schools.



Slough schools' response to sexual harassment and abuse



SASH

The Slough Association of Secondary Headteachers

Dear Parents

You may be aware that the national schools' inspectorate, Ofsted, recently published its findings from a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools.

The full report can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

All Slough schools have long had robust processes in place to respond with urgency and sensitivity when issues of this nature arise. The Ofsted report suggests that much of this abuse takes place in unsupervised areas outside school, such as parks or parties without adult supervision, but there are also incidents in schools which go unreported. However, what is particularly shocking to note from the report is the sheer prevalence of sexual harassment and online sexual abuse which Ofsted found.

Slough secondary schools have always worked in collaboration to serve the best interests of the young people of Slough. We are clear that any form of harassment or abuse is unacceptable and we are committed to working with primary school colleagues, families, the Local Authority and a full range of agencies to play our part in the community response to this problem which is required if we are to ensure our young people are safe.

As guided by Ofsted, we accept that our starting point should be to assume that sexual harassment is taking place in our schools, even if we have no evidence to support that and, on that basis, all Slough secondary schools are committed to a range of action including:

- * creating an environment where staff model respectful and appropriate behaviour
- * ensuring children and young people are clear about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- * creating an environment that allows children and young people to be confident to ask for help and support when they need it
- * carefully planning and implementing our Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) curriculum and pastoral programme
- * having in place sanctions and interventions to tackle poor behaviour
- * providing support for children and young people who need it
- * providing training and clear expectations for staff and governors
- * pro-actively seeking and listening to the views and experiences of children and young people
- * sharing good practice within and across schools and partners

As the harassment or abuse very often happens outside school in the community or online, we would encourage all families to use the publication of this report to raise the topic with their children in an open and supportive manner. There are important lessons and learning here for every child, irrespective of gender. We are committed to working together to encourage children to feel able to disclose anything that makes them uncomfortable, to empower them to make the right choices, and to make our schools and communities as safe as they can be.



Meet our new senior students



Anastasia Simmonds - Head Girl

"In Langley Grammar School, the students procure more than just a set of excellent exam results, but also relevant skills that will assist in prospective degrees, apprenticeships and careers. Within the classroom, our curiosity and desire to learn thrives. Within the school, we are presented with a broad range of opportunities spanning from student leadership positions to extracurricular activities like sports, prompting us to build our confidence, teamwork and independence. Perhaps most notably, the community encompasses a wide range of backgrounds, while the school cultivates an inclusive environment in which each individual is valued and recognised for their unique talents."

Ahmet Kucuk- Head Boy

"Our school prides itself on the creativity and confidence of its students. Upon entering our school gates, there is a pulse of our community, providing a nurturing space for growth and learning. From sports to academic excellence, our school offers a diverse range of opportunities, each a stepping stone towards our academic and social development. Langley takes a holistic approach to education, reminding us to go above and beyond the classroom to gain a deeper understanding of disciplines that we may pursue later on. As our ethos reminds us, we strive to reach our full potential as individuals and a community."



Zainab Shaik- Deputy Head Girl (Equalities agenda)

"Langley Grammar School bases its foundational principles in nurturing its students allowing them to prosper to become unique, well-rounded and ambitious individuals guided by professionalism, humility and service to the community. From the get go, we are taught to strive for the best and learn from our failures and successes alike with staff always being supportive and appreciative of our efforts. The school has presented my peers and I with countless opportunities to enrich ourselves beyond the scope of curriculum, enabling us to carry ourselves with a cloak of confidence both within and past the walls of school."

Krish Vaid - Deputy Head Boy (Equalities agenda)

"LGS's unique ethos creates an environment specialised for adaptive, full-potential learning, which doesn't sacrifice strength of character for strength of grades. Focus days dedicated to creating the image of a 'student ready for the larger world' help LGS students look towards the future and their potential life paths, instead of being hyper focused only on the grade sheet in front of them. It's this aim carried forward by both the senior leadership team, wider staff, and form tutors that prepares children at the school for life beyond the classroom, ensuring that they are something more than a walking set of exam results."



Anisha Thind - Deputy Head Girl (operational)

"Langley Grammar School is a prestigious academic school; its supportive community still manages to cater for their students' individual needs. The school achieves this by offering different activities to all students ranging from sports to music. Langley Grammar School offers a very welcoming and diverse community, giving students a safe environment to grow into people who are more than just a walking set of exam results. Langley Grammar provides many opportunities to allow their students to thrive and gain transferrable life skills. This school has gifted me the opportunity to succeed as an individual, allowing me to reach my full potential."

Sameer Gonuguntla - Deputy Head Boy (operational)

"Throughout my time at Langley Grammar School I was mentored to grow and develop into the person I am today. I was able to find new interest and hobbies through a wide range of sports, art and music activities. The staff provide a great support system which has allowed me to excel in all aspects of school life, not just academically, right from the start when I joined in Year 7. Everyone at the school feels a strong sense of community and we all strive to be the greatest that we can be, helping each other along the way."

