



# LGS Headlines

## December 2021



Dear Parents

I calculated recently that this is the 100th term of my teaching career - that was a bit frightening to discover. I think I can safely say that it is certainly up there in the top 10 for the most challenging!

We all started the term with what I described as 'cautious optimism' about how the pandemic would progress; we have unfortunately finished it with a sense of uncertainty once again about what will happen. A number of you have had Covid in your families this term, and I am sure that many of you will have had plans for the Christmas break cancelled or will be thinking carefully about what to do in the light of the Omicron variant.

Against that backdrop it is good to think about all the positive things that have happened this term. We have managed to run the school close to 'normal'; although there have been infection control measures in place, students have been incredibly willing to put up with wearing face masks to make the school community safer for everyone. Base rooms and social zones were abolished and students were able to take advantage of the new buildings and facilities, especially the large central area.

We have been able to run some educational visits out of school, hold 'off timetable' activities in school on Focus Day and other occasions, gather the whole school together for our Remembrance ceremony, take part in sports fixtures, prepare for drama and musical productions and concert - even though we sadly had to cancel the planned in-person Carol Service in early December and make an online recording instead.

Ofsted came to visit - 14 years after the previous inspection - and although we are not yet able to share the outcome with you, we can say that the students conducted themselves very well throughout, and the inspection teams enjoyed talking with them.

Students will return in January on a staggered start to enable us to conduct asymptomatic LFD testing on their first day back in school. Remote learning and timetabled online lessons will be in place for some year groups for the first two days of term. Further details are provided in this newsletter.

As we reach the end of a long and challenging term I would like to thank you for your support, and for all that you have done to encourage your sons and daughters in their academic work and their wider development. I would like to thank the students for their commitment to their studies and their willingness to get involved in all the other activities we offer. And I would like to thank our staff, whose dedication and professionalism throughout this term has been remarkable.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable, and above all healthy, Christmas and New Year season.

**Mr J Constable - Headteacher**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on 01753 598300 or email [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).**

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

Langley Grammar School  
Reddington Drive  
Langley  
Berkshire SL3 7QS  
01753 598300  
[school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk)

*Please visit our website at*

**[www.lgs.slough.sch.uk](http://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk)**

***Follow us on Twitter @lgs\_news***



# Staffing update

## Welcome to.....

We have welcomed three new members of staff who have joined our administrative support team:

- ◇ **Mrs Dionne Cheyne** joins us as **Headteacher's PA**. Mrs Cheyne will also be providing administrative support to other members of the Senior Leadership Team and will be the person checking the school email inbox every day.
- ◇ **Mrs Rupri Rana** is our new Cover Administrator. She is responsible for arranging cover when teachers are absent, and supervising some classes herself.
- ◇ **Mrs Jenni Jansen** has joined us as Admissions Officer. She is responsible for the organisation of the 11+, admissions to Year 7 and provides administrative support for Sixth Form Admissions.

If you need to contact any of these members of staff, please do so in the first instance via the school email address [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).

***Please join us in wishing these new members of staff well in their new roles.***

## Other staff updates...

- ◇ **Ms Ciara Moriarty**, subject leader for Biology, is on maternity leave following the birth of her second child earlier this term. Her role as subject leader is being covered by Mr Moayyad Pacha.

## Covering staff absence

As the Covid pandemic continues, we have experienced a higher than usual level of staff absence, and we fully expect this to continue into next term. We thought it was worth explaining a little more about what happens when staff are away from school.

Teaching staff may be absent due to regular illness, or because they have Covid. They may also be out of school because they have illness within their family, or they have young children who have tested positive for Covid and cannot be left at home even though they may be asymptomatic. There are also occasions when staff may need to be absent for appointments or other unavoidable circumstances. Sometimes they may be able to teach remotely from home, but more commonly this is not possible.

We employ three staff as cover supervisors. They cover lessons and supervise students who get on with work set by the teacher. We also employ occasional supply staff if the cover level is higher than we can manage with our own staff. Class room teachers may also have allocated 'cover periods' on their timetable, or may be asked to cover lessons in some of their non-contact time.

We try to minimise the cover where we can, as we are conscious that taking staff out of the classroom means that students' learning experience may be impacted. However, we could not run the programme of visits and other activities that we do without covering teachers' regular lessons to lead these elements of our curriculum. Hopefully we get the balance about right in terms of supporting your children's wider development as confident and well-rounded young adults.



# Spring term 2021

## January return to school

The current Government guidance requires us to administer a lateral flow device Covid test to each student on their return to school. This is to ensure that asymptomatic positive cases are detected before they spread the virus too far within the school community.

Students will be familiar with the process from returning in March and September 2021. They will be taken out of lessons on their first day back in school and asked to take a lateral flow test.

The arrangements mean it will be necessary to have students returning to school on a staggered start as shown in the table below. Students in Years 8-11 & 13 will have online remote learning provision following the school timetable from Tuesday 4th January until they physically return to school.

Day	Year group	Activity
Tuesday 4th January	Yr 7 & 12	<b>In school</b> LFD Covid testing for Yrs 7 & 12
	Yr 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13	Remote learning including timetabled online lessons
Wednesday 5th January	Yr 7, 10, 11, 12 & 13	<b>In school</b> LFD Covid testing for Yrs 10,11 and 13
	Yr 8 & 9	Remote learning including timetabled online lessons
Thursday 6th January	All years	<b>In school</b> LFD Covid testing for Yrs 8 and 9
Friday 7th January	All years	Normal lessons all day

## Other Covid issues

There are no significant changes to the current Covid system of controls.

- ◇ Students will continue to wear **face coverings** inside the school buildings unless they are told they do not need to do so. Please let Student Support know if this causes particular issues for any individual students so that appropriate exemption arrangements can be made. Students **must** wear face coverings if they go into shops, or travel on public transport, school buses and shared taxis.
- ◇ Adults who are fully vaccinated, and students aged up to 18 years and 6 months who are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result.
- ◇ If students have any of the main Covid symptoms, even if they're mild, they should self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test as soon as possible. They should stay at home until the test result is obtained.
- ◇ Anyone who tests positive on a PCR test is required by law to self-isolate at home for ten days.

## Is there a 'Plan B'.....?

*In the event of a change to Government guidance which may affect the arrangements for the start of term, we would let parents and students know as soon as possible. The most likely 'Plan B' would involve students remaining at home for a short period of remote learning, with online lessons following the school timetable.*



# Updates - outcomes

## Ofsted

As you know, the school was inspected by Ofsted in mid-November.

We expect the quality assurance to have been completed by early January and for us to be able to publish the outcome and the report to you by mid-January at the latest.



The **Sunday Times** has recently reinstated its '**Parent Power**' tables.

The ranking in these annual tables has always been based on actual grades achieved rather than progress made, but the methodology in takes into account both GCSE and A Level outcomes, giving double the weighting to A Levels. It is possibly the only 'league table' tool that takes both levels of qualification into account.

There are no examination results available for 2020 and 2021, so this year's tables have been published with rankings based on the average examination performance over the three years 2017, 2018 and 2019 - ie the last three sets of public examinations. This arguably gives a more meaningful ranking than an annual one.

With a small number of notable exceptions, the highest positions in the tables are taken by the most selective schools, with the top positions taken by those schools who take applicants with the very highest 11+ scores into Year 7, or highest GCSE grades into Year 12.

Langley Grammar School's intake into Year 7 represents approximately the top 35% of the ability range as measured by the 11+ test. Given this broader range of ability than many grammar schools we are very pleased to note that we are the only Slough school inside the top 125 on the list, and that.....

**Langley Grammar School is ranked #75 in the table.**

## Twitter

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





# School site update

## The school site

The key milestone of 'practical completion' of the building project was reached at the end of October. The construction company Wates no longer has a presence on site.

The outside courts are now complete and in use, and all parts of the school site are back under our control. There is a large area of the school field which we cannot currently use as it is being re-seeded; it is likely that this area will not be able to be used properly for around a year while the area recovers.

Snagging and defect resolution work is still taking place around the site and in the new buildings themselves. This work will continue over the next few months, mainly taking place in school holiday periods.

Delays to furniture supplies are now mostly resolved and the remaining areas of the new buildings which we are not currently using will be brought into use in the first few weeks of the Spring term.



We are consulting with staff and students about further improvements they would like to see made to the wider school site and to the older buildings which remain.

One thing we are very aware of is the need to provide more outdoor seating and sheltered areas and will be looking in more detail at this in January.

We will also be installing outdoor lockers which will be available for students to rent to store PE kit in without having to access classrooms. Further details of this will follow in January.

The front gates of the school will also be replaced next term to provide secure access-controlled entry for both pedestrians and vehicles. This will improve our site security and the safety of our students.

We are drawing up a programme of other work we would like to see completed to improve facilities in the older buildings and relieve some of the more crowded spaces. However, some of this may be dependent on us being able to secure condition improvement funding from the Department for Education.

***We will keep you updated in the New Year!***



# Fundraising

## Slough Food Bank



The School Council, accompanied by Mr Halliday and Ms Clark, visited the premises of the Slough Foodbank and were introduced to the aims and objectives of this local charity.

Students were surprised learned that the Foodbank has only two full-time employees, but is staffed by about one hundred volunteers, who collect the food from various supermarkets in the Slough area, check it, pack it and re-distribute it to those in need.

It's a mammoth task!

As a result of the visit, the students decided to make a school-wide Christmas collection for the Food Bank, to donate it during the last week of term just in time for their Christmas deliveries.

***Thank you to students and their families who donated more than 20 crates of food and other items to the Food Bank.***



## Non-uniform day for CARE International

On Thursday 16th December we held our first 'cashless' non-uniform day in aid of CARE International, one of the world's largest and oldest humanitarian relief organisations.

CARE was founded in the United States in 1945 to send 'CARE packages' – packages of food and basic supplies – to millions of people in Europe following World War Two. In the 1960s CARE set up pioneering primary health care programmes. In the 1970s, they responded to massive famines in Africa with both emergency relief and long-term food security and sustainable farming programmes.

CARE works in over 100 countries, with programmes ranging from fast and fair delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to investing in girls education and empowering women in disadvantaged communities.

**We are delighted that online donations by families have now reached**

**£2,400**

***Thank you!***



# From the Governors

Dear Parents

First of all we would like to convey the warmest Season's greetings to you and your family. May this festive season and new year bring peace and prosperity to all.

There are decades when nothing happens, and there are weeks when decades happen. The last two years were demanding due to the COVID-19 pandemic and posed considerable challenges for us all, but it did not take long to understand the effectiveness of the reliable and productive systems that are in place to create a healthy, high performing school. Through these robust systems, senior leaders and teaching staff were able to provide atypical remote learning provision during the closure period (Jan-Mar 2021) matching the needs of our students and rigorously following the guidelines set by the government.

Our school community, especially senior leaders and teaching staff, were able to successfully adapt to the 'new normal' and worked tirelessly to mitigate the impact of school closures, addressing learning losses by providing bespoke support to our students and reassuring parents at the same time about the safety protocols. Catch-up support sessions were provided, especially to Year 10 and 12 students, so that the adverse impact of these closures can be ascertained and taken into account.

LGS successfully monitored infection rates and provided online learning to the affected students. Quick decisions had to be made based on constantly changing government rules, whether these were related to the distribution of test kits or use of masks etc. Cancellation of exams is not taken lightly and our school was ready to meet the criteria set by Ofqual and exam boards. It is important to note that the Teacher Assessed Grades for GCSE and A Levels were a combination of students' commitment and efforts and teachers' diligent work on assessment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, an important pillar of the golden triangle (Staff-Parents-Students), for their hard work through a very challenging year.

As you might be aware, the new school building was completed and handed over just before the end of summer term. The importance of new school buildings is widely recognised and studies have shown that student's performance is enhanced in schools with better physical learning spaces. Our new building design promotes broad community access, inclusion and accessibility, and has definitely lifted morale for both staff and students. Remodeling of the outside central area has had a positive impact on our school community. We will continue to evaluate the use of some of the key areas for the benefit of our staff and students.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents wholeheartedly for their support through a difficult year. Special thanks to our students for their continued dedication to their studies and their support to each other.

Finally, as we all know, LGS was inspected by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) to probe and verify our expertise and commitment to various educational standards. This inspection was long overdue as our last inspection was in 2007. We are now expecting to receive a full and final report in January.

With our best wishes to you and your family

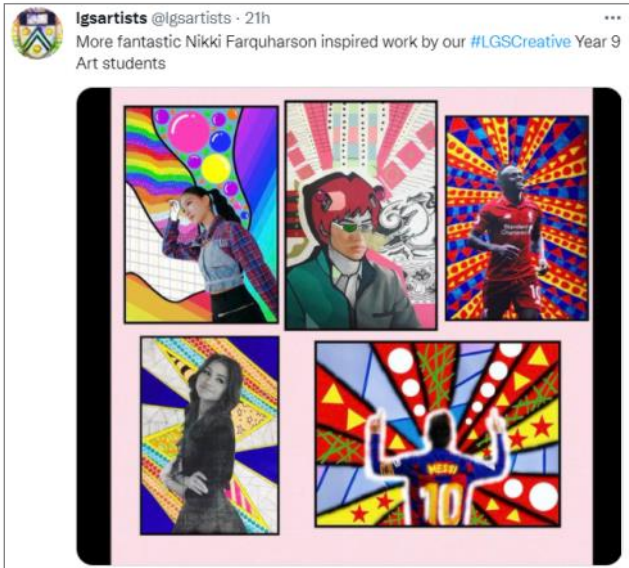
*LGS Governing Board*

***We would like to thank our Board of Governors for their hard work and support during the year.***





# From Twitter



These pages showcase a small sample of the school activities which are publicised through Twitter.

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



**@lgs\_news**  
**@lgsartists**  
**@drama\_lgs**  
**@LGSPE.....**





# From Twitter







# From Twitter

