



LGS Headlines

3 February 2023

From the Headteacher



Dear Parents

As we approach the half-way point of the school year, we are thinking about how we can work together to support our students through the increasing complexity of the world around them. Thank you to all those parents who joined our online forum to hear about the key online risks for students; we hope the session was helpful. We would like to extend a warm invitation to our follow up 'coffee morning' next week at which you can drop in to talk informally with our safeguarding team.

We are all aware that mental health issues have a much higher profile since the pandemic. Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, which provides another focus for considering the wellbeing of students and providing practical advice and guidance to them and to you as parents.

Trips and visits continue - two field visits to Iceland for around 100 students in Year 9, subject-focused day visits, a theatre company in school for Year 8, careers networking for Year 12, to mention just a few. This is all part of our wider commitment to students' personal development as we support them to become well-rounded individuals.

John Constable - Headteacher

Coming up next week...

All week	Year 9	Tuesday - Friday - Iceland Trip
Mon 6 Feb	Year 9	Parent-Teacher Consultation
Tue 7 Feb		
Wed 8 Feb	Year 7-11	Parents' coffee morning — drop in and talk with our Safeguarding team
Thu 9 Feb	Year 13 Year 11	A level Art visit GCSE Ensemble Performance Recordings
Fri 10 Feb	Years 10-13	Senior House Variety Competition End of this half term - break next week.

Contact us

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

For general information
visit our website

www.lgs.slough.sch.uk

or follow us on Twitter
[@lgs_news](https://twitter.com/lgs_news)


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



The week in review

- ⇒ **Students in Year 9** had a virtual assembly from **Pathway CTM**, an organisation which helps connect young people, schools & parents with leading global brands. provide employability skills training, free careers events, and work experience & apprenticeship opportunities. All students, including those who may have missed the assembly, have been encouraged to register for the Pathway CTM site and take advantage of the opportunities provided. Visit <https://pathwayctm.com/> for more information.
- ⇒ The first of two groups of **Year 9** students had an exciting field studies visit to **Iceland**. Despite some 'interesting' weather at the start they experienced a range of activities exploring the natural features of the island. A great trip!
- ⇒ We hosted **The Stage-Ed theatre company** who performed key scenes from Macbeth to **Year 8** students. The actors then encouraged students to ask questions and debate the impact of free will and fate on Macbeth's decisions. Finally, students had the opportunity to revise some context information to help them prepare for their assessment.
- ⇒ Around 200 **parents** joined our first online **Parent Forum** to hear our safeguarding leads talk about online risks and how to support keeping children safe as they navigate the online world. Thank you for attending - we hope you found it helpful.
- ⇒ **Year 7 and 8** students had lots of fun making their own disappearing ink in **Chemistry Club**. They wrote secret messages to each other and then carefully revealed their messages using heat!
- ⇒ **Year 12** students spoke to a range of professionals during our careers **Speed Networking event**. We were joined by over 30 representatives from a range of organisations and businesses, including former LGS students.

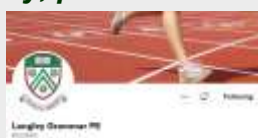
Updates & Reminders

- ⇒ **Year 9 PTC** is taking place online on **Monday 6th February**. As usual on PTC days we will be changing the timings of the school day for students in all year groups; lunchtime and period 5 will each be reduced by 10 minutes and the **school day will end at 2.55pm**. If you normally pick your child up from school, please would you note and ensure they are picked up promptly at the earlier time? As teachers are involved in the PTC, we are not able to provide on-site activities and supervision after the end of the school day.
- ⇒ The Spring **half term break** runs from **Monday 13th to Friday 17th February**. We hope that students have enjoyable break with a chance to rest and catch up with family, friends and other interests.
- ⇒ **Residents of Tobermory Close off London Road have complained** about some parents using the area for picking up and dropping off students. They have asked us to point out that this is a private estate where parking is only allowed in clearly marked and labelled parking bays. Please **do not park in Tobermory Close** so as not to cause further problems for these residents.

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



@lgs_news



@LGSPE



@lgsartists



@drama_lgs



Looking ahead

- ⇒ Our second group of **Year 9 students** will be travelling to **Iceland** for a visit from Tuesday to Friday. We hope they have a very enjoyable trip!
- ⇒ Our first **Parents' Coffee Morning** event is taking place on **Wednesday 8th February**. This is an informal opportunity to come in to school and talk face to face with members of our Safeguarding team, and broaden their knowledge of the online risks facing students.
- ⇒ Next week sees the return of large-scale music, drama and other performance with our **Senior House Variety Competition**. Students across Years 10-13 will be performing in a House competition designed to showcase the best acting and musical talents in their year groups. Prior to the pandemic restrictions, our House music and drama competitions were always a highlight of the school year and it is good to see these opportunities being re-established in a new and updated form.
- ⇒ Next week is also **Children's Mental Health Week**. There will be assemblies to raise awareness of the importance of positive mental health and how to support those who may be experiencing mental health difficulties.

LGS PE Fixtures this week..

Date	Team	Opponents	Venue	Pick up time
Monday 6 February	No after school clubs due to Y9 PTC			
Tuesday 7 February	U14 + U16 Boys Table Tennis	Eton College	Away	5.30pm



Why are some teachers striking?

Earlier this week the National Education Union held the first of a number of strikes planned for this term. On this occasion, a small number of teachers at LGS decided to take strike action, as is their right. However, the impact on the school was minimal and we remained open for all year groups. The NEU has further strikes planned for the 2nd, 15th and 16th of March; we will keep you informed as to the likely impact on the school.

The central issue is teachers' pay, which has fallen significantly in real terms since 2010 when inflation is taken into account. Although there was a pay rise for teachers in September 2022, this was significantly below the current rate of inflation, and follows a number of years where there have been minimal pay increases, or even pay freezes within the public sector. School leaders are concerned that the Government has not directly funded the most recent pay increases in 2022, leading to further pressure on school budgets at a time of significantly increasing energy costs.

School leaders are concerned that workload pressures, poor pay progression and underfunding of schools in general are making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain a sufficient quantity and quality of teachers. Ultimately this could have serious detrimental consequences for children and young people.