

The Friends of LRGS

*Newsletter for Parents & Friends,
Michaelmas Term 2020*



Welcome from the Friends of LRGS...



In welcoming all pupils, parents and guardians to our school this autumn, the Friends wish to thank Dr Pyle and the entire school staff community for their support for our children during the Covid pandemic, and for their hard work and preparation to ensure a seamless return to school in the past week. To see and hear the school site once more brimming with busy pupils, laughter and energy, must surely be one of the most remarkable milestones of our times.

During the pandemic, our school has led by example. This included offering the boarding facilities to NHS key workers during the lockdown period, donating PPE equipment to the NHS, and recognising the efforts of some sixth form students who have been active volunteers. By maintaining a sense of community and inclusion for everyone through online lessons, plus arts and leisure projects, LRGS is a school to be proud of; a truly living and dynamic embodiment of the Praesis ut Prosis spirit.



The Friends have been able to continue to support the school and our community during the recent months by donating supplies to the onsite NHS key workers, and to show our appreciation by providing baked goods to those away from home. Thank you to all our parents and families for their gestures of goodwill.



Normally, the school year is peppered with Friends activities, aimed at fundraising for small school projects, with us being on hand to support the many events hosted by the school. This year our plans were cut short, and are temporarily limited. Nonetheless we'd like to welcome everyone to this group, to reach out to our new families, both at home and away. Given the limitations we all face, we continue to discover new ways to develop a virtual community and to move forwards. Please therefore look out for our termly newsletter and our Facebook page, The Friends of LRGS; do like and join us - it's a great way to stay in touch.



Highlights from the past school year with the Friends....

We started the school year with our annual **Supper Run** in which the whole school and family are invited to partake in, returning home for chip butties, gingerbread men, and a party atmosphere at the finish line. We'd like to thank Chartwells Catering for their kind sponsorship of the event; Mrs

Mossop in Food Tech, and the Maths Department for their skilled organisation, as well as Sister Moghadden for her first aid cover, and LRGS CCF for providing hydration stations. Race HQ manned by the teachers and sixth form marshals was invaluable, but the runners were really awesome!

Sebastian Gallardo Barton, a talented pianist from Chile, visited last October and invited our pupils to showcase their talents. His own piano recital was spellbinding too!



A Night with Eddie the Eagle

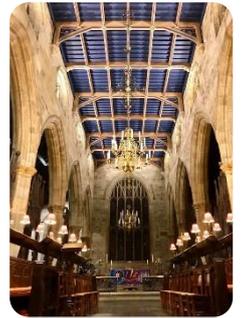
By November the Friends had transformed the Assembly Hall into a Calgary 1986 Olympic ski village to welcome Eddie the Eagle for a family night.

Packed to capacity, guests were treated to live performances from school rock bands

Attacama and Lidocaine, after which Eddie gave an inspirational account of his success and chatted to pupils and families. Guests enjoyed a hot supper and drinks from the Friends "Praesis ut Prosecco" apres ski bar, making this a gold medal event in our school calendar.



Our regular events in supporting the **Year 7 Welcome evenings, LRGS Groundforce Day, Speech Day, Mince Pie Baking Day** and supporting the **LRGS Festivals of Carols** as winter approached, kept the Friends busy throughout the autumn.



Burns' Night Celebrations

The Friends held their annual Burns' Night Celebrations in early January. Guests were welcomed by the Friends and 6th Form students at Lancaster Town Hall. Piping of the haggis, and the Burns "Address to the Haggis" was followed by a traditional Burns night supper," a ceilidh, charity raffle, and whisky tasting. The celebrations continued into the night with the endless

dancing of reels. As yet we await news of being able to host an LRGS Burns Night in January 2021. Details will follow.



Sourdough Bread Baking Day



In March, we were delighted when parent Peter Sorton, kindly hosted a fundraising sourdough bread baking day in conjunction with the Food Tech team. A small number of Friends and LRGS staff learned skills from making a starter, proofing loaves and baking delicious sourdough bread. They left with a hot, crusty loaf and one to put in the oven at home! Peter has kindly offered to host similar events in the future when the time is right. Thank you to Peter and to all who baked!

LRGS School Shop



We are very proud of our school shop on the upper school site. We are delighted that we are able to continue to open the shop now that lockdown measures have eased. We stock pre-owned school blazers, uniform and sports kit, as well as a selection of sporting ties and LRGS

memorabilia. All proceeds from the shop go directly to the Friends funds. We'd welcome any donations of current sports kit and school uniform items, which may be left at the school shop. It is open during term time from **3.30 to 4.30pm on Fridays and 10.00 to 11.00am on Saturdays**, with social distancing and hand sanitising facilities. Thank you to our School Shop volunteer team.



The Kinamba Community Project, Rwanda

The Friends of LRGS have a partnership with the Kinamba Community Project in Rwanda. Here, children in need of education proudly wear LRGS colours from donated surplus sportswear from our school shop. They now have several rugby team for boys and girls!



We hope to stay in touch and to see everyone soon. Very best wishes for the new academic year from the Friends of LRGS.

Michelle Whitton

Secretary to the Friends of LRGS & Sixth Form Mum
Charity Commission Reference No: 1053685

