



## LRGS Alumni Newsletter

September 2020



A warm welcome from LRGS for the start of a new year. For a while we imagined that September was a finish line ahead.

For the school – the end of weeks of planning. For pupils and parents, the end of five long months at home.

But it was actually a start line, of course. A new school year sets everything in motion – the start of many possibilities and adventures!

It has been fabulous to have pupils back this week; boarding houses busy; all year groups in by Monday.

There may be problems, and we will solve them as we go. There will be unforeseen events, which we will deal with one by one.

There is a Latin phrase, *Solvitur ambulando*, which means: “It is solved by walking.”

One step at a time, three miles an hour. Moving forwards together.

This isn't a finish line. But it is the start of a particularly precious new term and year.

The latest Headmaster's letter to parents can be found [here](#)

As always, we love to hear from our LRGS community so get in touch with [your news](#), be sure to update us of any [change of details](#) or feel free to visit us if you are in the area!

With best wishes,

Dr C J Pyle

Headmaster

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## LRGS Updates

### Head of School

The top team have been selected to represent LRGS as Head of School for September 2020-21

**Adam Parkinson** has been chosen as Head of School supported by Deputies; **Ben Schofield**, **Rebecca Denver** and **Miles Davis**.



Adam Parkinson, new Head of School, said: "Since 1235, LRGS has provided an education to young people who have the desire and ambition to excel both within and outside the classroom. Now more than ever, during these challenging times, I have seen the potential, charisma and ability of every single member of our school tested to levels that six months ago, no one would be able to imagine. Therefore, I am honoured to have been selected as Head of School for the next academic year and look forward to beginning my role over the coming weeks as I take over from Ben Anderton - an invaluable friend, source of advice and an excellent opening partner in the 2nd XI cricket team.

I cannot wait to begin to work with our Senior Team on developing ideas that can be implemented both despite the recent circumstances but also through new ways that pupils themselves will be able to experience as school life returns to normality. There is no way of understanding the immense challenge that this will bring. However, with every challenge there opens a new opportunity - a philosophy that I hope we can help every member of the school community to embrace.

Over the coming weeks, we will begin to formulate our plan for the year, targeting areas of the school that we'd like to develop but also bringing forward new ideas and focuses about issues that are increasingly important in everyone's day to day lives. We hope that the benefits of these will not only be seen within the school but also in the wider reaching community that makes LRGS the incredible school that it is.

Therefore, whether you are a cricketer or a rugby player, in the music or role-playing societies, or an Old Lancastrian who bestows great pride upon the school, I can assure you that your Senior Prefect Team will be working as hard as they can to ensure that every pupil has a voice, the opportunity to excel and the confidence to be able to call Lancaster Royal Grammar School, their school, with pride and admiration and that they are part of the incredible legacy."

Each of the Deputy Heads have their specific areas of responsibility, Ben will lead Operations, Rebecca will head up Charities and Events and Miles is responsible for Welfare.

You can read statements from each of the Deputy Heads [here](#).

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## School Zones

Pupils will stay in their year group's area for most lessons. This is to reduce movement around the site and minimise contact between year groups. Pupils will go to specialist rooms for some practical subjects. These areas and any specialist equipment will be cleaned between use by different year groups – part of the

enhanced cleaning regime around the site. There will be new routines for practical subjects including PE and Games.

Each year group also has its own outdoor recreational space. Additional catering outlets around the site will mean that pupils will stay in their own year groups for food at break and lunch times. The same food will be available at each outlet at lunchtime.

A number of other measures will help distancing and reduce mixing. Furniture has been rearranged in classrooms where possible; assemblies will take place online in form rooms; extra-curricular activities will be separated by year group. Sixth Formers are allowed to go home after their last timetabled lesson of the day.

Pupils use entrances / exits which are designated to their year group only and are being encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible instead of using public transport. Those using school buses queue in their year bubbles and we are working with the bus company to help buses leave promptly.

Each zone has a number of sanitisation stations to enable pupils and staff to wash and sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. Face masks are now compulsory for pupils, in accordance with government guidelines, in indoor areas where social distancing is difficult.

During the current climate, we politely ask that all visitors attend site only if necessary and only if they have an appointment with a member of staff.

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### Mr Douglas Cameron

Former teacher, mentor and inspiration, Mr Douglas Cameron has retired from his position as a School Governor. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Douglas for the many years of unwavering support for both the school and OL Club.



## Alumni News

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### Gordon Manley Weather Prize

Congratulations to David Bowker (83-85) on recently being awarded an academic prize from the Royal Meteorological Society for his contribution to their journal *Weather* and for furthering the knowledge and understanding of the subject among the public generally. The Gordon Manley Weather Prize is awarded annually for any outstanding contribution to Weather through a paper or papers -- or other outstanding service to Weather -- in the preceding five years that has furthered the public understanding of meteorology and oceanography.

David studied Classics in the Sixth Form and credits LRGS with instilling in him scholarly habits which he feels are a contributing factor to his success.



### Go-Shuffle

Former LRGS pupil Daniel Taylor (2000-07) has co-founded Edinburgh start-up [Go-Shuffle](https://www.go-shuffle.com), a newly launched self-coaching framework that promises to help individuals struggling with the fallout of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The brainchild of co-founder Andrew Hurst, a professional coach of 18 years' standing, the framework has been successfully used with both individuals and businesses over a period of almost two decades.

Daniel and Andrew have since worked together to develop the original framework into an online offering, now available to the public as Go-Shuffle.

Founded with the guiding aim of providing individuals with the resource with which to navigate new challenges and critical decisions at a time of significant collective change, Go-Shuffle operates on a self-coaching model, whereby users are encouraged to take the universal principles of the system, and apply their own resources to design their own unique solutions. It has been specifically designed for anybody seeking to manage a change in their life, whether in the form of coaching solutions, a new direction or simply a renewed perspective on their current situation. It can also be used by coaches to maximise or improve their client experience as a supplement to their own techniques and methods.

For those interested in learning more, the first part of the Go-Shuffle framework is being given free of charge, and is available to all at [www.go-shuffle.com](https://www.go-shuffle.com). The full programme is also significantly discounted to £49 as we transition through the phases out of lockdown. Click [here](#) to read more.

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## **Stephen Parr**

This year marks the 30th anniversary of OL Stephen Parr's disappearance during a solo expedition in the Rolwaling Valley, Himal, Nepal. Stephen was an exceptional sportsman who demonstrated great courage and strength and was inspirational to both staff and pupils alike.

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## **Dr Chris Riley**

It is with great sadness that we report the news that OL Dr Chris Riley (46-53) passed away in the Hillcroft nursing home, Carnforth, on the morning of Sunday 19th July 2020, aged 85.

He was a second generation OL, his father, also Chris Riley (15-22), Chris' own son then became a third generation OL, also Chris Riley (1979-86). On one occasion they all managed to all attend an OL dinner together.

Chris spent most of his life in Lancaster working as a local GP at Rose Bank Surgery. He was an avid golf player and organiser of the OL golf match for a period of time.

The funeral was held on Friday 31st July at Lancaster Crematorium but due to COVID, the numbers are limited to family and close friends.

Our thoughts go out to Dr. Riley's family and friends at this time.

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## **Upcoming Alumni Events**

Unfortunately due to the ongoing situation, the OL Committee have taken the tough decision to cancel the remainder of the 2020 OL Dinners.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's events, further details will be available nearer the time. Please check the website and our social media pages to keep up with the latest news.

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We thank you for your ongoing support of the school.



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East Road, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 3EF